



# Northwest Training and Testing

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

September 2020 | Final

Vol.  
4



**NAVSEA**  
NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND







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# **Northwest Training and Testing Activities Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement**



## **Volume 4**

**September 2020**

NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
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**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Herrera S-1	Dear Navy You must cease conducting these harmful so no experiments in the ocean. There is enough evidence to support the trauma you are inflicting in marine life. We do not support your underwater experiments that are killing marine life.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li><li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li><li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li><li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li><li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li></ul>
Hess-Davis-1	President Eisenhower warned us against making the military too powerful and I'm afraid that we have ignored that warning. It was sad to see beautiful Indian Island taken over from it's settlers for military use. I feel that the military has been given way too much of our tax dollars because people are scared to death of dangers that are not necessarily real. The fact that the military can give Trump back all that money for his wall supports the fact that our military (and it's budget) is way too big. I do not appreciate the Growlers disturbing the peace in beautiful places like Sequim and the Rain Forest. It feels like they have the power to do anything they want despite how citizens feel. Why you are allowed to have bases in lovely areas of the country, I can not understand. When I go down to AZ I see signs everywhere warning about possible unexploded shells in the desert. It seems everywhere you go, you ruin the land. It makes me sad and angry.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Hewitt A-1	The worlds oceans the sea life are under enormous stress. Please do not add to the problem with sonar testing.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

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		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hewitt J-1	<p>1. It is hard to believe you did NOT bring any sound gear so we could hear anything you were saying! Deliberate attempt to confuse and obfuscate.</p> <p>2. The research you are operating with [illegible]</p> <p>3. The damage done by sonar at high volume is well documented, the need for this research is not obvious.</p> <p>4. I oppose all sonar testing &amp; experimenting in areas where marine mammals &amp; fishes live in any abundance. It is disruptive to these creatures.</p> <p>5. The millions of dollars spent by Navy would be much better spent by providing medical care.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/">www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Hicks-1	Stop animal abuse!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Hieb M-1	<p>I am against sonar testing.</p> <p>The marine life have the birth right to be free and wild. Not to be bombarded with percussions of sound and harmful acts</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/">www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>



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<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Hieb O-1	Sonar hurts dolphin echolocation and causes death. I'm against sonar testing	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hieb T-1	Underwater sonar will cause unrepairable damage to marine life. I am 100% against this practice.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hilbach-Barger-1	<p>"Best available science" should include (integrate) Tribal Traditional Knowledge.</p> <p>You know what activities are "stressful" – if you wouldn't do it in your grandma's living room, it is stressful; if you wouldn't do it in your grandma's back yard, it's stressful; if you wouldn't do it where and when your child is sleeping it's stressful.</p> <p>Lack of observable population level effects does not constitute proof of "lack of harm."</p>	The Navy will continue to consult with the Tribes. Through Government-to-Government consultations, the Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.
Hill G-1	Dear US Navy, I'm writing to ask that you stop harmful testing practices such as sonar testing that interferes with and harms marine animals and mammals that communicate acoustically such as whales and dolphins. It's imperative that the US Navy stop acoustic practices such as sonar testing immediately in order to preserve threatened and endangered marine species ability to continue healthy and sustainable life cycles.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in

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		the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hill L-1	Save the whales Save the oceans Save HUMANITY!!!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Hill W-1	The noise and disturbance to all living things extend all over this place where a sizeable population can hear the rumble in the sky of the EA-18s now not only as we try to sleep but throughout the day. Thank our stars it's not every day. Those planes can go almost anywhere fast. Why not leave us peace-loving citizens in peace and practice where there aren't many people?	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Hilton K-1	Please stop harming the sea life	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>



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Hilton L-1	<p>I am concerned about the impacts of this testing on long-term behavior of whales, dolphins and other marine species. While current studies may show the impact of individual exposure of testing on marine life, there is no way to predict the cumulative impact of this testing. Several of the species that would be impacted are already struggling, and some groups—southern orcas in Puget Sound, for example—are in decline.</p> <p>"Whales are equipped with exquisitely sensitive hearing for using sound to follow their migratory routes, to locate one another over great distances, to find food and to care for their young," a NRDC report says. "Noise that undermines their ability to hear these critical sounds can threaten their ability to function and survive."</p> <p>At the very least, this testing should take place in the open seas, where animals have greater opportunities to avoid impacts.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Hinz-1	<p>Please stop the Test which you know harm mammals. They are already exposed to so many other Problems made by Human beings...</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> </ul>

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<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
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Hirsch-1	<p>I am a resident on Orcas Island who is opposed to the additional 44% more Growler jets on Whidbey Island and the increase of the number of practice flights in central Whidbey from 6,100 per year to 24,000 per year. This will dramatically increase the regional impact of the noise and pollution from the jets across all of NW Washington. Growler noise is already too loud and too often in my house! The windows shake!</p> <p>Also, the Olympic National Park, the quietest place in the country, should not be lost by the increase in Growlers – the loudest jets in the military. We are at peace time for goodness sakes.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Hiser-1	<p>I am against your proposed Naval tree top training flights over the Olympic Peninsula. I am more than upset over what the Growlers have cost in fallen real estate prices and sales on Whidbey. Now, the Navy thinks the protected, one-of-kind Olympic rainforest environment can be wrecked as well with these proposed tree top flights. Tourism is the 4th largest industry in WA state. It generates \$21.4 billion in annual spending, and \$1.8 billion in state and local taxes. Much of these tourist dollars are specifically tied to what our beautiful Sound and Olympic Forest provide. Our state benefits from income from Cruise and boat viewing of Orcas, rentals for family retreats, local hotels and restaurants, property sales, backpacking and camping, hunting and fishing packages. The actions of these tree top flights and all that is tied to this proposal will devastate our way of life in the protected Olympic Peninsula, as well as, rob our state of much needed tourist dollars.</p>	<p>The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.</p>
Hiser-2	<p>I am against the Naval plan to increase its use of sonar and explosives underwater in any part of Puget Sound. As outlined in the Seattle Times article, the cruelty it will cause underwater mammals is unconscionable. The Navy war games will destroy the hearing of our mammal sea life including whales, and porpoises. There is no reason to be so callous by purposefully killing orcas from the impact of sonar and explosions on their</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal</p>



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<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	echolocation systems and their hearing. They won't be able to communicate, seek food, raise their young safely, or hear an oncoming barge or ship. Our Puget Sound and the islands have over the years become trashed by the Navy with the increase of the Growlers noise levels impacting humans personally, and the sea life, as well as, tourist and real estate dollars. The Navy is no longer something I have any respect for. My brother was an officer in the Navy, as was my fiancée years ago. Now, I see a military organization that is turning our rare and very special Puget Sound into a military operation without respect for the creatures who live in those waters.	populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hochmair-1	Freedom, destroying the seas, ruined the whole planet, extinction until humanity itself.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Hoffman-1	Hello! I am 100% against sonar testing. It greatly affects marine life and in particular whales. These are sentient beings and they deserve protection and they cannot protect themselves and cannot turn the sound "off." Please stop this practice immediately. Thanks.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

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Hoffmann-1	I am shocked to see the Navy would be so reckless and knowingly harm the life of so many whales and dolphins. This needs to stop, we need to preserve our oceans.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Hogan K-1	As a US citizen I find it appalling that my government is operating in such a callous and irresponsible manner by conducting sonar testing despite knowing the detrimental effects on marine life. The Navy should be working to protect the earth's environment, including non human life, rather than harming innocent beings.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hogan R-1	If you know that your testing harms our wild creatures, why do you do it? We love our sea life and do not want to see them throwing themselves on the beaches because you are blasting them out of the water! Please stop this testing! Please help save our sea life!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

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<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Holladay-1	You have likely heard many comments about injury to cetaceans, both physically and mentally from sonar in their environment. My comment is simple...the oceans are their homes and all lives deserve respect.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Holland-1	I oppose sonar testing as it will hurt wildlife.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Holman-1	Sonar and seismic testing is unacceptable to me for one main reason: the ability of marine mammals such as whales, dolphins and porpoises is severely impaired by the unacceptable levels of noise generated by these tests. These species rely on sound to find food, to breed and to locate each other, e.g, the ability of a calf to find its mother can be made impossible by the incessant, ultra-loud testing. With marine species' struggle for survival being made more challenging daily by the increasing pollution of the oceans via traffic and human waste, this additional and severe intrusion into their habitat is not sustainable and must end.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Holmes J-1	I am deeply concerned about the effect our military is having on the planet itself and it's inhabitants--human and non-human. Studies have repeatedly shown the negative effects that sonar has on ocean mammals physically, mentally, and emotionally. It is unconscionable to further destroy the shrinking populations. It has been decades since America's military has needed to defend the citizens of America. Instead, our military, our sons and daughters, have been used to further certain economic interests by whatever means necessary! Millions and millions have been killed--human and non-human--	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	and now our planet is dying, too, so a few unkind people can feel powerful. We should be ashamed. We should stop NOW!	EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Holmes R-1	Navy Sonar testing is proven to cause injury in marine animals. The southern resident orcas are critically endangered, and on the verge of extinction. They need protection, and sonar testing would prove to be the opposite of that. I encourage the Navy to reconsider their current plans of sonar testing in the Pacific North West.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Holroyd-1	We have a new baby orca just born to the southern resident orca pod, an endangered group of marine animals. We must do our part to protect this species.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/">www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Holtorf-1	We as residents of the San Juan Islands do not want navy testing over our islands or in the surrounding waters. There are endangered Orca whales who rely on sound to hunt. Sound echos in the islands and carries across the water. The vibrations of growlers shake my cabin on Blakely to the point of scaring my kids. Imagine how this sounds to our aquatic neighbors. The San Juan Islands are a tourist destination and a natural treasure, they need to be preserved for the peace and tranquility they are meant to provide. Navy testing should be done in an area less fragile and vulnerable to its effects.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Honeycutt-1	Please discontinue any activity that will pose threat to the creatures which inhabit our oceans!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Hopkins-1	Marine mammals rely on their hearing. Knowingly damaging their ears is unconscionable.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hopkinson-1	Stop sonar testing in Pacific Northwest waters! It is home to the critically endangered southern resident orca population and countless other marine	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	species that will suffer hearing loss or death as a result of this testing. STOP IT.	and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Horan-1	<p>I moved to Whidbey Island thirteen years ago for its pristine beauty, natural open spaces for hiking and silence. I am a writer who counts on quiet to get my work done. I have experienced the excessively loud decibels of noise created by Navy plane landings when in Coupeville and feel deeply sorry for the people who are subjected to the noise on a regular basis. It it nerve shattering and undoubtedly affects animals in the area as much as the humans with homes there.</p> <p>I am also deeply concerned about the water supply that has been polluted by firefighting chemicals. Is the wildlife in the area getting bottled water? Why doesn't the Navy use an unpopulated island for its exercises? We have one precious aquifer that supplies all of us. Ebey's Landing draws thousands of hikers and tourists for its quiet beauty and wildlife sightings. Why despoil this magical place with noise and harmful chemicals?</p>	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Horeth-1	<p>I live on Whidbey Island and the Navy taking over our area has been disastrous. They have been insensitive and unresponsive to the community concerns. They have poisoned our drinking water and continue to threaten our lifestyle on our once peaceful island. They change the game and rules whenever they wish with no accountability. They are paid for with our taxes but they are not serving us well. They like our president have become bullies, not good neighbors.</p> <p>We are not at war so I ask why the continued huge expense for the military? No, I do not want them to change the "peacefulness" of the Olympics or anywhere else nature resides. There are not enough unspoiled areas in the world and fewer here in the US. Money, greed and military whims seem to go hand in hand.</p> <p>The future is in flight simulation training. Keep the pilots safe and the environment happy. We can not bring back what they destroyed. Nor can we know the full impact of all these training missions and noisy jets.</p> <p>I know the impact on our own lives. 7 friends have moved away already as we all fear... what will our homes and lives be worth when the Navy TAKES OVER?</p>	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Horne-1	<p>I am writing to express concern regarding the use of low and mid frequency active sonar in the coastal waters of the west coast of the U.S., in particular because of the detrimental effect this is known to have on marine mammals such as whales.</p> <p>I would like to propose a different alternative to the use of active sonar for training, testing and detecting enemy submarines. Given that the new, quieter diesel-electric submarines can approach more closely, and that this is an international issue, the Navy should advocate an international ban on submarines that can operate so quietly, and they should also participate in an international ban on the use of active sonar. Since whales and other marine mammals use their auditory abilities for navigation, group communication, feeding and other vital functions, it is unacceptable to fill the world's oceans with loud sounds that will harass and disturb these animals, making them less healthy and killing many of them. We must look at the big picture and find a different solution.</p> <p>New information has emerged in the last month that necessitates further study before extending the Navy's permit to use active sonar. Seventy grey whales have been found stranded or dead on west coast beaches since the beginning of 2019. This is five times as many as the annual average, and it is likely that 600-700 grey whales may have died in total during this time, considering that most would not have landed on beaches but rather sunk to the ocean floor. NOAA has declared this unusual die-off a "wildlife emergency" and has called for further study to determine the cause of these deaths. The Navy's Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental EIS identifies sound as one of the causes of strandings of marine mammals (Section 3.4.1.7 "General Threats"). There is also speculation that warmer arctic waters may have reduced the food available for whales, since many that have beached show signs of malnourishment. Warming waters contribute to changes in the migration patterns and feeding grounds for whales. The changing ocean conditions mean that past studies will be quickly outdated. What is causing this unusual number of deaths among grey whales? Is LFA sonar a factor in these deaths? Further study is needed. In the last month, we have also had an unusual die-off in our region of the common murre (Fort Bragg Advocate News, May 24, 2019). More than 300 have been found dead on local beaches, which would be just 10% to 20% of the total number that have probably died and not been found. What is causing this die off? Is Navy Testing and Training a factor?</p> <p>Level B Harassment is defined in the Navy report as something that "disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal's natural behavioral</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>patterns, such as migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where patterns are abandoned or significantly altered." Level A Harassment is defined as a direct injury. The Navy stresses that 99.84% of all estimated takes are related to Level B Harassment, but I would like to point out that Level B Harassment can kill a marine mammal over time. If any of the vital functions described (migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, sheltering) are abandoned, this leads to death, or in the case of breeding, the inability to reproduce.</p> <p>In addition to my concern for the well-being of marine mammals and other sea creatures, I am concerned about the negative impact that Naval testing and training has on Native American spiritual practices, since the Pacific ocean is vital to many West Coast tribes' beliefs and practices. Traditional knowledge about the ecosystem, developed over thousands of years of living in this place, is valuable and should be taken into account, alongside scientific data. What is the Navy doing to take into account the traditional knowledge and spiritual practices of Native Americans?</p> <p>As someone who lives in the town of Fort Bragg, California, in Mendocino, California, I am concerned about the negative impact that naval Training and Testing will have on our local economy, which is dependent on tourism and fishing as primary industries. Tourists flock to our coastal region to witness the annual grey whale migration, and while they are here they patronize our local restaurants, shops and hotels. If Navy training and testing reduces the migrating whales, the town of Fort Bragg and other coastal towns in the region will suffer economically. How will the Navy compensate us for that loss? Local residents have seen far fewer grey whale mothers and calves swimming close to shore this year. Further study is required to understand the scope and cause of the 2019 grey whale die-off.</p>	
Horne-2	<p>I'm going to be writing a letter with more substantial comments about the issues at stake. I wanted to make a statement today, though, about the format of this event. The format of this event is a disgrace. This event has been designed to prevent the community from hearing each other's questions and hearing the Navy's answer to those questions. This booth format only allows people to speak one-on-one to the Navy, but we as a community need to hear from other members of our community, some of whom are very informed about the issues at stake and can share important questions. You know, not all of us have studied this topic, and we want to hear from those among us who have studied it more. And we want to, you know, share our local concerns and our community concerns. I am shocked</p>	<p>The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	that the Navy doesn't provide a microphone and does not set this event up so that there can be a true dialogue. It seems to me that they have intentionally created an event that prevents community dialogue. I am extremely disappointed, and I, with many of my fellow citizens, will be taking action to try to prevent this testing in our local waters.	members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Horner-1	The testing your doing is causing damage to our marine life and their hearing. Please change the way you do testing if you know they are in the area don't do testing they are an endangered species! Your testing is part of the problem	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Houts-Hussey-1	Increasing Growlers flying, at Whidbey Island Naval Outlying Landing Field with touch and go's from 6000 to 24000 by Inexperienced pilots is a SAFETY RISK, for the people, families, children below And the pilots. We are experiencing first hand erratic and dangerous patterns, and turns, and low altitudes which can end in a disastrous and potentially fatal crash. There's too many in the air which does not have a tower to control them. Someone, many can get hurt/killed. These Growlers must train in other less populated area like Joint Base Lewis McCord which has similar sea level elevation.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Howard K-1	I am concerned about the harm you will do to the marine life in the Pacific Northwest. Many of those mammals are struggling due to our noise and toxin pollutants that your "games" are just one more nail in their coffin.	The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Howard R-1	I totally disagree with and protest against this training plan for sonar testing by the navy in the pacific northwest. The harm to animals has been well documented. Leave the environment free of war games	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Howard S-1	Testing that is known to harm or that has the potential to harm marine wildlife should not be conducted. The wildlife are already struggling with pollution and climate change derived from human actions. The risk of loss of biodiversity is far too great.	The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hreha-1	Please stop the sonar testing! These noises cause major stress and suffering to marine mammals! Southern resident killer whales are already critically endangered, facing numerous threats to their survival, and this adds to it tremendously! Please stop doing this and causing harm to these beautiful creatures.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hubley-1	Save our whales, and save our planet!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Hudson-1	<p>I went to Seattle and Victoria, Canada. I went on a whale watching tour for hours on a zodiac boat. We were unable to see an orca.</p> <p>The resident pods as well as transient pods are negatively impacted by sonar testing. Sonar is loud and causes hearing loss. It impacts the orca's ability to hunt and to communicate.</p> <p>Because of human activity such as sonar testing, tourism to see these beautiful creatures can cause frustration like in my personal experience. It is best for us, for the marine mammals, and for the economy to stop sonar testing.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Huenke-1	<p>"This Supplemental (EIS) does consider the cumulative impacts from these three projects as well as other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts)" [NAVY EIS p. I-9].</p> <p>NO, it doesn't! The EIS assumes if there is no study, then none is needed. There is a list of activities that could be cumulative; the list is far from complete.</p> <p>Only the No Action Alternative is acceptable to the Olympic Peninsula's environment.</p> <p>The comment period should be extended to a total of 90 days, so more people have time to understand and comment.</p>	<p>The Navy has taken a hard look at the cumulative effects of the incremental impact of its proposed actions when added to other past present and future actions, against the appropriate resources and regulatory baselines. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop its Cumulative Impacts analysis. As required under NEPA, the level and scope of the analysis is commensurate with the potential impacts of the action as reflected in the resource-specific Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, discussions in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental consequences). The Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS considered its activities alongside other actions in the region when those impacts are cumulatively significant. Past and present actions are also included in the analytical process as part of the affected environment baseline conditions presented in Chapter 3. The Navy has done so in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality 1997 guidance. Per the guidance, a qualitative approach and best professional judgment are appropriate where precise measurements are not available. Where precise measurements and/or methodologies were available they were used. Guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality states it "is not practical to analyze cumulative effects of an action on the universe; the list of environmental effects must focus on those that are truly meaningful."</p> <p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p>
Huffman J-1	<p>Sonar testing has been proven to destroy sea life, including endangered mammals and their young offspring.</p> <p>Please do the right thing and ban any further sonar testing and protect whales, dolphins, sea life and their families. Sonar is a life threatening and torturous assault, we look to you to protect the voiceless.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Huffman S-1	Please stop sonar testing! You are slowly destroying many marine species some of which are endangered.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hummel-1	<p>I am writing to urge the US Navy to avoid all use of sonar and electromagnetic underwater testing and even the use of these technologies during wartime. US security is much bigger than just the immediate (or potentially immediate) security of our human populations, but depends upon the complex web of life that keep us all alive. To ignore that is extremely shortsighted and will "shoot us all in the foot"--possibly sooner than any potential attack on the US from which these tests are supposed to protect us.</p> <p>Increased sonar and electromagnetic underwater testing has the potential to interfere or injure marine mammals' ability to navigate and communicate. The Navy itself predicts that there would be more than 500,000 instances of marine mammal behavioral impacts, harassment, and injuries over five years, including 275,000 instances of temporary hearing loss, and more than 600 instances of permanent hearing loss.</p> <p>Vessel strikes from increased water traffic will increase marine mammal death rate. We have already seen the loss of nine grey whales in the San Francisco Bay area in the last six weeks from malnourishment and vessel strikes. The western North Pacific population of grey whales is estimated to include fewer than 200 individuals. We cannot afford to put these animals in greater danger.</p> <p>Risks to marine mammals, fish, and birds from entanglement in wires, cables, and parachutes, and ingestion of expended military materials and toxic debris will increase. The Navy holds no responsibility to clean up their spent munitions and debris.</p> <p>In addition, the Navy's training and testing harmfully impact the cultural and spiritual significance of marine species and habitat for the Tribes of the</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>West Coast.</p> <p>Again, I urge the Navy to rethink it's priorities around sonar, electromagnetic, and other technologies which substantially harm marine and other wildlife. We are entering a new era of awareness around the sanctity and fragility of life in the face of our modern technologies. It is time for the Navy to join the majority of Americans in prioritizing the protection of our lives from pollution and ecological collapse, which is a very real threat to our country.</p>	
Hunkler-1	<p>Please stop and do not Selsmic blasting! It harms wildlife and interferes with marine life such as whales, dolphins, seals and many other animals that communicate under water. Blasting every 10 seconds or even every few minutes is too much. We need to find alternative fuel and energy sources that do not harm life and the planet!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Hunt-1	<p>Whales flee from the loud military sonar used by navies to hunt submarines, new research has proven for the first time. The studies provide a missing link in the puzzle that has connected naval exercises around the world to unusual mass strandings of whales and dolphins. Beaked whales, the most common casualty of the strandings, were shown to be highly sensitive to sonar. But the research also revealed unexpectedly that blue whales, the largest animals on Earth and whose population has plummeted by 95% in the last century, also abandoned feeding and swam rapidly away from sonar noise.</p> <p>The strong response observed in the beaked whales occurred at noise levels well below those allowed for US navy exercises. "This result has to be taken into consideration by regulators and those planning naval exercises," said Stacy DeRuiter, at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, who led one of the teams.</p> <p>Please STOP SONAR TESTING!!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Hunter-1	<p>I am extremely opposed to the Navy during testing in the waters of the Puget Sound. This testing will interrupt the sonar communications of the marine mammals living in our region. We are already having a crisis in the residential orca whale population and cannot risk further decline in their population. Please do not allow this to happen.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hurd-1	The science is in regards how sonar disrupts whales and dolphins. It causes such panic they swim till they get the bends. STOP ALL SONAR Thank you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Huth-1	Both the US and Canadian government have recently taken steps to protect marine life in the Salish Sea and you want to test knowingly harmful underwater sonar in the same local? Not only is that working against each other, but to knowingly harm these mammals in their own protected habitat is verging on a criminal act. Enough damage has been done, perhaps your efforts would be better serving to assist those that have had their habitat damaged and their numbers decimated.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hyland-1	Please stop underwater sonar. Our planet needs all the help it can get. This is something we can instantly easily change with a large impact.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Hysko-1	I am opposed to the growler training flights over the Olympic peninsula. The growlers are loud and disturb both residential areas and wilderness areas. It was claimed that flights have not increased from previous years, but then they increased. It has been claimed that flights are at high altitude and do not cause noise. I have heard them many times both at home and in	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>the mountains, they are very loud and disruptive, especially in wilderness areas.</p> <p>I am opposed to the Navy expanding operations through multiple front while claiming each front is unique and not related to the others, when it is clear they are.</p> <p>I am also concerned about Navy tests disturbing marine life.</p>	<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
<b>I</b>		
Ibanez-1	<p>You're harming marine life with your sonars. We've already seen many animals injured or killed by human neglect. We should not continue to abuse power and harm animals.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ibrahim-1	<p>Naval sonar used to locate silent submarines can kill marine mammals which violates the Marine Mammals Protection Act.</p> <p>Exceptions should not be made because this sonar if deployed in multiple locations and used constantly will end up killing many marine mammals which is contrary to the spirit of the law that inspired the MMPA.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ihara-1	<p>I would like to address the purpose and need statement of the draft supplement EIS/OEIS and a layperson's understanding of the deleterious effects of sonar and explosives on marine animals.</p> <p>The Congressional direction in section 8062 of Title 10 is not specific in how to attain combat readiness. While Congress delegates to the Navy the responsibility of maintain, training and equipping combat-ready naval forces, it is Navy personnel that must determine how to do this.</p> <p>Unfortunately Naval personnel have developed a plan that is extremely harmful and, at times, fatal to marine life. The Congressional direction found in section 8062 of Title 10 does not prescribe such an outcome.</p> <p>The deleterious effects of sonar and explosive on marine animals is known by laypeople such as myself so assuredly is well-documented in Navy</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	literature and research. It is shocking to me, as a layperson, that knowledgeable, creative, technically savvy people, of whom there must be many in the Navy, cannot devise ways to maintain, train and equip combat-ready naval forces that don't do irreparable harm to the creatures of our ocean.	
Ingalsbe-1	DOD Needs to stop this crap. You know, admitted it is harmful deadly to SRKW... So just stop this NOW!!! J31 has a new baby J56, let them all survive from your deadly, useless USN antiquated crap.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ireland-1	Thank you for training to protect our freedom and keep our pilots' skills sharp. This training will reduce the danger of plane crashes, thus reducing potential damage to the environment and the danger of injuries and/or loss of life for the aviators and for people on the ground. The "Growlers" present no real or substantive threat or damage to our quality of life or biological resources. The Navy's Draft EIS/OSIS is fully adequate.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.
Irvin-1	Sonar testing is harmful to ALL animals — this practice is inhumane and needs to stop.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Irwin-1	Increased sonar and electromagnetic underwater testing is threatening to injure marine mammals' ability to navigate and communicate. Navy ocean training and testing on the Northwest Coast is up for review. The Navy is proposing to increase the volume and types of maneuvers that they conduct. Their Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is now open for #publiccomment. For The Wild stands alongside our allies with the InterTribal Sinkyone	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Wilderness Council is strongly opposing the Navy's proposed actions. The Navy's training and testing harmfully impact the cultural and spiritual significance of #marinespecies and habitat, for the Tribes of the #WestCoast.</p> <p>The Navy predicts that there would be more than 500,000 instances of marine mammal behavioral impacts, harassment, and injuries over five years, including 275,000 instances of temporary hearing loss, and more than 600 instances of permanent hearing loss.</p> <p>Vessel strikes from increased water traffic will increase marine mammal death rate. We have already seen the loss of nine #greywhales in the San Francisco Bay area in the last six weeks. The western North Pacific population of grey whales is estimated to include fewer than 200 individuals. We cannot afford to put these animals in greater danger.</p> <p>Risks to #marinemammals, fish, and birds from entanglement in wires, cables, and parachutes, and ingestion of expended military materials and toxic debris will increase. The Navy holds no responsibility to clean up their spent munitions and debris.</p>	
Iwasaki-1	<p>Dumping heavy metals and depleted uranium into the ocean or Puget Sound is not only irresponsible but an attack on the people that live here. We don't need more metals in our environment, which is not only sickening the earth and environment but poisoning the people/families and wildlife living here. Dispose of your waste properly and safely no matter the monetary cost or stop producing waste.</p>	<p>The Navy does not propose any activities that would include dumping heavy metals or depleted uranium. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p>
Izquierdo-1	<p>The Salish Sea is home to resident orcas that are already highly under stress due to other environmental impacts. Unlike transient orcas, they only live here, and feed off a very specific diet of Chinook salmon. Sonar is known to have deafened whales, and I'm very concerned about the impact to this population, since they have no where else to go. Please reconsider the decision to test here, so we can create the conditions to coexist with this very special, and local species. Thank you.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
<b>J</b>		
Jackson-1	The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. There is no evaluation for other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas could be avoided.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft and ships are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Jaffurs-1	Navy and military are ruining this earth and destroying all life trying to live on it. Please stop harming the marine life immediately, it is not right to harm them in there own natural habitat for your own wonders! Harming other living creatures is not right especially if they have no way of fighting back!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Janes-1	The proposal for testing military equipment is dangerous to humans and wildlife. Sound waves move very quickly in water, dolphins, fish, our remaining Wales, seals will be effected. There will be death consistently and at a much higher scale than the hemilitary alludes to in their proposal. Human health and well-being is not taken into consideration. Noise pollution is a very real issue with military testing and effects human health. Lack of sleep creates less productivity and invokes depression. Testing over our parks impacts the health of wildlife which our parks exist for plant and wildlife preservation. We don't have much left when it comes to wild places to flyover these places is an invasion of air space impacting flight Patterson birds and again extreme noise impacting birth, livelihood and health of wild animals. Military testing must stop. I do not support the current plans or proposals which put human and natural communities at a very high risk for life, health and wellbeing.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Jankelow-1	That this should be even entertained knowing the crisis the Southern Resident Orcas are experiencing is truly beyond humane. Other species of whales, dolphins, turtles that call the ocean home will experience sounds and tremors that will be shocking if not fatal. Already there are unusual high deaths in California strandings of Grey Whales. I urge you please not to do this.	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Jansen-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar testing as it has been proven to harm marine mammals and affects their welfare and living. I hope you can take this seriously and take action and protect the animals living in our ocean.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Janson-1	I am urging not only "no new flights and no new jets", but a dramatic reduction of existing flights. As a frequent visitor to Whidbey Island and a lover of our natural resources and wildlife, the increased noise levels and frequency of flights are harmful to our orcas, tourism, full and part time residents, students (teachers cannot be heard over flight noise), and long term impacts will be detrimental to anything in the flight path.	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTTEIS Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Also, see Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources) for an analysis of the Navy's proposed activities on tourism and other socioeconomic resources. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Your support to move Growler flight training to another, preferably sparsely inhabited locale, would be greatly appreciated.	<a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
January-1	I am opposing the US Navy's increasing use of sonar off the northwest coast of the US. The noise the sonar causes will interfere with the ways whales and dolphins navigate and communicate. This kind of training maneuver is not wanted or appreciated. Please do not cause more harm in the oceans.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Janzen-1	I think only a marine biologist who has a lot of time would really be able to give you substantive comments on your huge EIS. Since I am a lay person, I can only give you my opinions. I support No Action Alternative as I don't think we should be spending endless amounts of our tax dollars on the military industrial complex, and I don't like that there are so many environmental and marine animal issues associated with your testing procedures around WA state waterways. Marine mammals already have a difficult time surviving due to pollution, climate chaos, loss of food, etc. so having to endure the Navy's sonar and explosives is just another stressor they shouldn't have to put up with. I went to Appendix E Estimated Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Impacts from Exposure to Acoustic and Explosive Stressors Under Navy Training and Testing Activities TTS-PTS and was confused as to what TTS and PTS even mean. Looking at the many tables, it looks as though thousands of dolphins and seals are negatively affected by your actions. If TTS and PTS means they are seriously injured or die, then I am even more opposed to your training activities in and around WA state. I think the Navy says they take precautions to prevent marine mammal deaths, but I think in reality they do whatever they want since nobody really can stop them. I think hurting/killing marine mammals for the sake of security is wrong. If you can perform your training without hurting the animals, then I would be ok with it on a limited basis.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jarvis-1	Why not fly over unpopulated man&animal spaces? We all know the noise is hazardous to both.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft and ships are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Jäverfelt-1	Stop abusing animals, it's their environment, not ours	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Jenkins-1	I am 100% AGAINST the navy sonar testing, it is too harmful to our already extremely hurting marine eco system. This testing effects the remaining 75 Southern Resident Orcas as well as all the other whales and marine life that live here or frequent the area. No testing is worth losing what precious bit of this ecosystem we have left, we are trying to protect and heal it, not scar and destroy it forever.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jenny-1	<p>Imagine every time you knock off work to shop for dinner, there is loud, shrill humming in your ears while you select your frozen fish dinner!</p> <p>Imagine when you jump in your car to head home, the same noise makes it hard to concentrate on traffic and hazards!</p> <p>Imagine getting home and when you walk in the front door a shrill, ear piercing noise starts and stops as you put your shopping away, greet the dog that's going mad with the noise and trying to hide under the bed to escape to no avail!</p> <p>Imagine your kids begging 'dad, make the horrible noise stop, our ears are hurting and we're getting sick but you can't as you have no idea where the noise is coming from or what's causing it, day in, day out!</p> <p>Imagine you cook and eat dinner dreading the next minute in case the</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>noise starts, finally you go to bed exhausted from trying to block it out, you put your ear plugs in and ear muffs over those to try and get some sleep but still the noise penetrates just enough to wake you through the night till you wake exhausted and just want to scream, run or jump off a bridge because the noise never stops night after night!</p> <p>Orcas don't have ear plugs and you inflict that life on them and their friends and families as they try to get on with their lives, swim, catch dinner, play, rest, while you are earning a living at work driving them insane with the noise! They can't just hop in a Ford and drive out of the Ocean to escape the sonars you operate with no side effects apart from the odd yawn! Have mercy on the intelligent whales and orcas and dolphins, they would never dream of using ray guns on you!.</p> <p>Let them live without harmful, totally unnecessary human noise pollution while you think about what you're having for dinner in peace and quiet I assume.</p>	
Jensen E-1	<p>I do not support sonar testing in the waters of the Salish Sea/ Puget Sound. It is directly harmful to the marine life, especially the critically endangered Southern Resident Orcas. By refraining from using or testing sonar near the whales, they will have a better chance at survival. This is important to the health of our ocean and community.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Jensen J-1	<p>There must be a more humane, less destructive means to accomplish whatever it is the Navy is doing with sonic blasts. Our neighbors on this planet have suffered enough at our hands, we are killing too many as it is. As a citizen of this country, I absolutely abhor the use of these devices. It must stop!!!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Jessup-1	<p>We know that sonar is harmful to marine mammals - damaging their hearing and inhibiting their communication. Additionally increased marine vessel traffic results in collision deaths- especially for gray whales and other whales that call our waters home. Please consider their lives - there are</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	fewer than 200 gray whales left in the area and our resident orcas are facing numerous challenges to survival, let's not add more harm.	EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jhueck-1	I have never felt angry about the Navy in the twenty years I have lived on Whidbey Island. But now, the arrogant way in which our environmental concerns have been ignored (and I know no one who believes this comment process is well intended and will actually change anything) and the stunning noise from the jet take offs, landings, and fly overs makes me fully invested in finding a way for this entire base to close. Everyone I talk with feels that you are destroying this beautiful island. The 'price of freedom' is a joke. YOU are making my home unlivable, not some distant enemy.	The activities proposed in the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Jodoin-1	Please Stop sonar in our Oceans. You are diminishing our sea life, our mammals, our water way, because once they are gone so are our children and their children. This has to stop now in order to save some kind of life for our families. Please please Stop!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Johannis-1	Dear audience. I come from Indonesia which is an archipelago country. Our fishermen get many help from our dolphin friends. They live happily in the ocean (some of them also live in our river). I would give my big protest if you want to use any device that can damage their hearing capabilities and ruin their happiness to live freely in their home. You should consider other way to do your job and consider other creatures too. Thank you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Johns-1	I find it mind blowing that people even have to write in a public forum about this issue. Navy sonar testing is a terrible practice that harms so many animals. How can you knowingly do such a thing and not have any reservations about it? These aren't just open waters to play in. These are	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	their homes. They have no place else to go. Please, stop sonar testing in Washington.	Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Johnson B-1	The negative impact to me personally from the noise produced by war training is untenable. I have lived on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula Since 1980, The impact of flights over and into the Olympic National Park destroys the meaning of Park.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Johnson D-1	Please do not release 20,000 tons of environmental “stressors,” including heavy metals, depleted uranium, and explosives, into the coastal waters of the U.S. Pacific Northwest or in any body of water. In Seattle region, Puget Sound has too much environmental degradation already as shown by many whales dying of starvation, fewer salmon, oysters having trouble growing shells, and starfish wasting disease. Please dispose of your garbage responsibly on land. Thank you.	The Navy does not propose the use of or release of heavy metals or depleted uranium. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.  The analysis of impacts of the Navy’s activities on water quality can be found in Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Johnson J-1	I have owned my home in Port Townsend for 27 years. Over this period of time I have heard the Navy jets from time to time and dealt with it. Now the new Growler jets and the increase in activity and proposed additional flight activity gives me pause to think about living here for the rest of my life. I came here for the beauty and tranquility 28 years ago. Today I cannot think of the the increased disruption to my life. The impact of my personal life is hard to handle, but the impact on our environment is impossible to comprehend. The attitude of the Navy as was said directly to me "we were here first, close your windows and get a white noise machine". I know there are alternatives to the maneuvers currently being done on Whidbey. The Navy has even stated that there were options to locations for the training, but it would take some extra flying time and the Navy decided to stay with current operations. I am more fortunate than those closer to OLF and I cannot conceive of the impact on US citizens on Whidbey in the flight	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft and ships are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>path of the OLF.</p> <p>Where is the Navy's humanity and concern? None to be seen or heard. I would suggest that those in the Navy that make these critical decisions should try living in homes and study in schools that are so highly impacted by my their current training operations.</p>	
Johnson O-1	<p>The Navy should look at other places to expand its electronic warfare training for EA-18G jet flights other than the Olympic Peninsula, the Hoh Rain Forest and Olympic National Park.</p> <p>I hike and camp and recreate in national parks and wilderness areas, in large part, to escape incessant man made noise and to enjoy nature's solitude. I ask that the U.S. Navy find alternative places to fly these jets such as the high desert east of the Cascades.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Johnson R-1	<p>Being subjected to the miserable noise of the awful flights at the OLF, I have to believe there must be some areas where the defenseless birds and animals can be protected from the Navy. The Navy can go anywhere, why must they pollute the few remaining pristine areas of the Olympic Peninsula. The only thing I can think of it is convenient and the critters don't vote, plus it saves gas.</p> <p>Send the Navy out to sea; is that not where they are supposed to be?</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comment, and the rationale in my statement.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Johnson T-1	<p>I am 100% Against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals.</p> <p>A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas.</p> <p>"For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival," Calambokidis said.</p> <p>Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations.</p> <p>Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times.</p> <p>Please take care of the oceans! Be stewards of care not intervention of natural processes.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Johnston A-1	<p>I am a fifth generation resident of Mendocino County California. Mendocino County is a large area with a small population, the entire county has fewer people than most cities in California and we are often depicted as a bunch of uneducated, marijuana growing potheads. That is a broad generalization of a small subculture of our population. It is often felt as though the rest of the state and country thinks that Mendocino County is insignificant and therefore doesn't matter.</p> <p>Mendocino County is in crisis. Our main industries, lumber and fishing, have become practically non-existent. In the last few decades our wood mills have closed and our fishing industry has faced many hardships. Our main local financial life line is tourism.</p> <p>While many will write about the suffering the marine life would have to endure if the US Navy is allowed to do weapon testing 12 miles off the coast, but the human members of this community and our local economy would suffer as well since tourism is all that is left.</p> <p>Dead whales stink! About 10 years ago a Blue whale washed up on shore about 12 miles south of town. Even in Fort Bragg we could smell it. The low lying fog keeps it cool in the summer, but it also causes the smell of the beach to permeate the whole coast. Usually, it is a pleasant smell, especially after a storm, but a dead sea lion, just outside town can stink up the whole place. Marine scientists have determined that the use of sonar in naval testing off our coast would mess with sea mammals echolocation and increase the number of dead animals washing up on shore. The memory of one dead whale on a beach 12 miles south of town a decade ago still triggers a gag reflex. To have to endure that regularly for 7 years? That's cruel and unusual punishment. Tourists do not want to visit beaches that smell like rotting sea life.</p> <p>The tourist season has already been reduced by two months because of the closure of abalone season. The North Coast of California is currently suffering from a sea star wasting disease. As the sea stars die off, their chosen prey, the purple sea urchin, are undergoing a population explosion, which has left the kelp forest bare due to over feeding. The red abalone also feed on the kelp forest so their numbers are down, resulting in the closure of abalone season. Abalone season starts April first. Tourists usually start coming to town in April; this year we didn't see them until Memorial Day. The current stresses on our ocean, for whatever reason has effected numerous species, including tourists.</p> <p>If the death of one species due to ocean stress has caused such an ecological crisis in our ocean, it is unimaginable what seven years of human</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>imposed stress would have.</p> <p>Finally, the stress of a military presence close to such a peaceful community would be very stressful on our population. People who live here are much more sensitive to such things as planes flying overhead, and large ships on the horizon than people who live in cities realize. This community is so small that when the local hospital transfers a patient by helicopter all the lines at Safeway are a buzz with rumors.</p> <p>Working at a high school in Sonoma County, bomb threats were common place around midterm exams. The students would stand in the field and complain about needing to use the bathroom or the delay to lunch it would cause. The first time there was bomb threat working at Mendocino High School, students were crying, sobbing and hugging each other, genuinely fearful. Violence, or threat of violence in such a small quiet community is quite a bit more stressful than it is to people in cities who dismiss it as part of "the way things are."</p> <p>The benefits that Naval testing off the coast of Mendocino County are far outweighed by the hardships that would be endured by the marine and human population of Mendocino County, not a community of disengaged potheads, but a peace loving haven where the inland people flock to, to escape the summer heat or smoke from wild fires. Please, don't disturb this peaceful place with weapons testing. This is my home.</p> <p>Amy Johnston, daughter of Andy Johnston, son of Clifford Johnston, son of Charlotte Gray-Johnston daughter of Prince W. Gray son of Leonard Leballister Gray who moved here from New York, so we could have a better life.</p>	
Johnston P-1	<p>Sonar testing in the Pacific is extremely harmful to the water animals. They are already harmed by malnutrition, getting hit by ships, swallowing too much trash in the ocean. To render them deaf, is a death sentence. Please reconsider how and where you test.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Jones De-1	I listened to the public express their concern, and watched as Navy employees discarded these comments and questions. They don't seem to take responsibilities for their actions, skimming past their own research and not taking climate change into account. They are basically holding a blow horn into their ears and asking them to go about their life, like how can they? How could anyone? These animals, in result to the Navy's actions are dying. Their own studies are there to prove it. The Navy is in denial.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Jones Di-1	I don't appreciate our state being a military training area. I don't enjoy going to a wildlife viewing area in Okanogan county only to be bombarded by growler jet noise. Or Jefferson County. I don't trust the that military to safe guard the environment be it water pollution, underwater noise, etc. They have a very poor reputation.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Jones Ke-1	The Navy should not be allowed to destroy the sanctity of wilderness. It is unconscionable that the Navy be allowed "incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine species" by moving their operation to the Olympic wilderness when they already have training areas that do not threaten endangered species. The Navy should not be allowed to move their Growler jet training to the Olympic peninsula, to destroy wilderness tranquility, to "take" endangered species. The Navy must select the "No Action Alternative" in the Environmental Impact Statement.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Jones Ki-1	I am fully against the underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. It's critical we don't expose the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales to these practices. I urge you to please put a stop to this!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jones M-1	Please refrain from your sonar drills. My family is planning a big trip to Canada to see Orca's in the wild so please if you want tourists please stop harming the wildlife. Thank you	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jones N-1	We do not need to add any additional strain on our extremely endangered Southern Resident Orca population. No sonar testing should be completed at this time, for that sake.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jones P-1	I am 100% Against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. The Southern Resident Orcas and all Salish Sea marine inhabitants are in harms way from the U.S. Navy. This video shows Southern Resident Orcas literally swimming away from the Navy 's dangerous & harmful sonar practices. This is 100% unacceptable. Call to Action! A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. "For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival," Calambokidis said. Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations. Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times.	
Jones S-1	Do the navy really need to do this test after it has found to be so harmful to the wildlife in our oceans. Scientists tell us we are constantly abusing this planet and if we carry on with this abuse we are paving our own path to the extinction of the human race. Please reconsider if this is truly needed. Thank you	The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jonker-1	I'd like to express my concern regarding the testing and training proposal in the Pacific Northwest oceans and the effects that this testing will have on marine wildlife. As a resident of the Pacific Northwest, the suffering and damage that these tests will have on animals are too great. As a scientist and technologist, I value and respect the need to push the edge of technological development, and I support the navy and the incredible work that they do to protect our country. However, scientists can be exceptionally creative in developing new methods for testing in the face of challenges and restrictions. It is my strong opinion that the costs to marine life, as highlighted in a recent Seattle Times article, are too high and that the navy should reconsider new methods for providing greater protections to the sea. <a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/navy-plans-testing-of-futuristic-technology-sonar-harm-to-mammals-in-pacific-northwest/?utm_source=marketingcloud&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=TSA_052419214231+Navy+sonar+and+explosives+could+harm+marine+animals_5_24_2019&amp;utm_term=Active%20subscriber#comments">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/navy-plans-testing-of-futuristic-technology-sonar-harm-to-mammals-in-pacific-northwest/?utm_source=marketingcloud&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=TSA_052419214231+Navy+sonar+and+explosives+could+harm+marine+animals_5_24_2019&amp;utm_term=Active%20subscriber#comments</a>	The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jonsson-1	Videos shows Southern Resident Orcas literally swimming away from the Navy 's dangerous & harmful sonar practices. This is 100% unacceptable. I am 100% Against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>“For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival,” Calambokidis said.</p> <p>Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy’s calculations.</p> <p>Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a “behavioral reaction” (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times.</p> <p>I do not support this and urge you to stop this. Be a force of good, not evil, in this world.</p>	<p>EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Jory-1	<p>Please consider the safety and health of the marine ecosystem as affected by your anti-submarine warfare sonar testing- we support the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council. We have only one earth, and the marine creatures who inhabit it are vital to the earth’s biodiversity!!!</p> <p>We only have 1 planet &lt;3</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Joseph-1	<p>I suggest the Navy send infrared thermal imaging drones over their exercise areas, so that the exercises may be rerouted if a given number of animals are found below. If the resolution of the thermal images is enough to determine which species are below, it could determine if it's an endangered species and therefore to be avoided. The damage to all animals below would be avoided.</p>	<p>Analysis of the potential for thermal detection systems as a mitigation tool was presented in Section 5.5.4 (Thermal Detection Systems and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). The Office of Naval Research Marine Mammals and Biology program recently funded a project to test the thermal limits of infrared based automatic whale detection technology (Principal Investigators: Olaf Boebel and Daniel Zitterbart). This project is focused on (1) capturing whale spouts at two different locations featuring subtropical and tropical water temperatures, (2) optimizing detector/classifier performance on the collected data, and (3) testing system performance by comparing system detections with concurrent visual observations. In addition, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has funded six initial studies to test and evaluate current technologies and algorithms to automatically detect marine mammals (IR thermal detection being one of the technologies) on an unmanned surface vehicle. The Navy plans to continue researching thermal detection systems to determine their effectiveness and compatibility with Navy applications. If the technology matures to the state where thermal detection is determined to be an effective mitigation tool during training and testing, the Navy will assess</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the practicability of using the technology during training and testing events and retrofitting its observation platforms with thermal detection devices.
Jovi-1	No sonar you <i>[expletive deleted]</i> idiots!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Judd-1	<p>The ocean along the western coast of California is a migration route for several species of whales. Often whales are migrating with their babies. The tests the Navy proposes to perform kill uncountable numbers of creatures, including whales, that live or pass through this area. I oppose the continued use of sonar along the Mendocino coast for these reasons:</p> <p>1) This year there have been an unusually high number of whale deaths along the migration route. Scientists do not yet know why so many are dying.</p> <p>2) The death from sonar must be excruciating, with burst eardrums, and the shocks going through the water injuring the entire bodies of the creatures living there.</p> <p>3) Marine creatures have no way to protest these killing tests, so we must speak for them.</p> <p>The Navy should move the tests away from migration routes, farther out to sea. There is no sane reason why the Navy must conduct deadly tests in areas where there so many protected areas, birthing areas, and homes for zillions of animals. Going farther out to sea away from crucial areas for wildlife might be more inconvenient, but that is not a tradeoff for the terrible toll the tests take.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Juliet-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to harm marine animals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Jung-1	Please Just Stop You're Killing numerous Whales and other Ocean Animals. Have a Heart.	The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Justice-1	Dear US Navy, please stop doing seismic testing in areas populated by lots of marine life. This is very detrimental to their well-being. The ocean is so vast and certainly we can find places to do the important testing without disturbing marine wildlife. We all have to live together on this planet. Thank you for your consideration.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
<b>K</b>		
Kaczorowski-1	My background includes: A Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy from Mills College in Oakland CA with a concentration in Natural Resource Systems, and a Masters in Theological Studies focusing on Ethical Traditions and Environmental Studies ( Pacific School of Religion and cross studies at U.C. Berkeley). I also attended the Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding, sponsored by George Mason University, The Institute for Defense Analysis, The Department of Defense, and the United States	See responses below.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Institute of Peace, Washington DC where I was awarded a Certificate for completion of the Interagency SENSE Simulation: The Strategic Economic Needs and Security Exercise, 2011 and I attended the Lorry I. Lokey Graduate School of Business, Mills College, Oakland CA: MBA Studies, 2010.</p> <p>I reside along the Pacific Coast in Fort Bragg, California and our coastal communities depend on Ocean protections for our fisheries, recreational, cultural tourism, and eco –tourism industries. The NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project as proposed will impact our economy that is heavily dependent upon already compromised ocean and fisheries resources. Our area Native American Indigenous Tribes will also be significantly impacted by the Navy’s training and testing activities conducted within the same Study Area beyond 2020.</p> <p>Please find attached my public comments document that support a NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE in which the Marine Mammal Protection Act and NMFS authorization would not be issued; therefore, proposed training and testing activities would not be conducted.”</p> <p>The Navy’s training and testing analysis has not utilized the best available scientific information and has not acknowledged the economic and cultural hardships that will occur due to the harm within our complex ocean ecosystems and upon the species that habitat these proposed areas for exercises and testing. Species are on the move and cannot be counted on to stay in place in a specific zone. I also present the case for Virtual Training as an alternative. Virtual Training in the U.S. Navy &amp; Military is well known and well established. Thus, these exercises and trainings are not necessary for hands-on training in realistic or diverse conditions. By 2022, as much as \$11 billion will go to virtual training, augmented and mixed reality training systems, with virtual reality becoming a primary focus of military innovation.</p>	
Kaczorowski-2	<p>I also present the case for Virtual Training as an alternative. Virtual Training in the U.S. Navy &amp; Military is well known and well established. Thus, these exercises and trainings are not necessary for hands-on training in realistic or diverse conditions. By 2022, as much as \$11 billion will go to virtual training, augmented and mixed reality training systems, with virtual reality becoming a primary focus of military innovation.</p> <p>“Within the Department of Defense, the impact of VR and AR has fundamentally changed major functions over the course of 30 years. It has opened countless doors to new uses that are now commonplace throughout the armed services. Training and Future Operations</p>	<p>The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4 (Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The Fleet Integrated Synthetic Training/Testing Facility, or FIST2FAC, was created in response to urgency for a more inexpensive and portable way for ships to train in any given operating area. The latest iteration of the U.S. Navy's simulator training technology blends live-action exercises with virtual reality. For example, sailors operate a 50-caliber machine gun on a ship, wearing augmented reality glasses, enabling them to see virtual enemy combatants within a live physical setting." ... "The Battlespace Exploitation of Mixed Reality, or BEMR Lab, is also developing inexpensive, cutting edge technology for the U.S. Navy by combining virtual and augmented reality in San Diego. Sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, the BEMR Lab hopes to provide training that could allow virtual reality simulations such as being able to walk the decks of a ship, helping sailors in getting to know the details before ever arriving at the actual vessel. Or, simulating live-fire exercises for a variety of crews, as well as finding a multitude of solutions using advanced technology for many fleet challenges." (Source: <a href="https://arpost.co/2018/10/12/us-navy-virtual-augmented-reality-cutting-edge-training-recruitment/">https://arpost.co/2018/10/12/us-navy-virtual-augmented-reality-cutting-edge-training-recruitment/</a>)</p>	
Kaczorowski-3	<p>Proposed training and testing activities are generally inconsistent with current data and research and contradicts the Department of Navy's findings and data in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>How do the proposed tempo and types of training and testing activities, account for and supersede existing verifiable scientific data as I have presented below?</p> <p>The meta-analysis across species, locations and contexts to determine when and where it may be possible to group species and where they should be treated separately is complex and difficult at best especially with fast moving change in ocean temperatures due to global warming where many marine species are moving in response to ocean warming, disrupting fisheries around the world. Navy Testing and exercises adds to this problem that we are facing in protecting our economically important fisheries.</p> <p>The following study: entitled " Climate change to shift many fish species north, disrupting fisheries" states that</p> <p>"Climate change will force hundreds of ocean fish and invertebrate species, including some of the most economically important to the United States, to move northward, disrupting fisheries in the United States and Canada, a Rutgers University-led study reports. The study, published today in the journal PLOS ONE, covers the North American continental shelves on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Previous studies have been global or regional,</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>thus being too large or too small to get a clear picture of the future for North America's fisheries. The species surveyed include finfish, sharks and rays, crustaceans, and squid. Among those most affected are Pacific rockfishes, Atlantic cod and black sea bass.</p> <p>Fish are sensitive to the temperatures of the water where they live, and as it becomes too warm, populations often shift to where the water temperature is right for them. This process has already begun, though at different rates in different places. As climate change continues and the oceans warm up, the study shows, more species of fish will move north to where the temperature range is habitable for them.</p> <p>"We've already seen that shifts of a couple of hundred miles in a species' range can disrupt fisheries," said lead author James Morley, a former postdoctoral researcher at Rutgers-New Brunswick. "This study shows that such dislocations will happen all over the continent and on both coasts throughout the 21st century."</p> <p>"For commercial fishers, this often means longer trips and higher fuel costs," said co-author Malin Pinsky, a professor of ecology, evolution and natural resources at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. "Some species along the U.S. and Canadian Pacific coasts will move as much as 900 miles north from their current habitats."</p> <p>The researchers used 16 different climate models, each with both a low level of greenhouse gas emissions and a high level, to develop projections for future ocean temperatures around North America. The lower-level emissions scenario is in line with goals set by the Paris Accords, from which President Trump withdrew the United States earlier this year. These climate projections were combined with statistical models of species temperature preference, which were based on bottom-trawl survey data from around the continent. While both high and low emission scenarios project some northward shift, the shifts in species habitat will be two to three times greater under a high emissions future.</p> <p>Among the northward moving species is the Alaskan king crab. "People in that fishery already travel a long way to catch crabs—many from as far away as Seattle—so this may not make a big difference to them in the short term," Pinsky said. "But if you're based in North Carolina, fishing for black sea bass, and you have to travel 300 or 400 extra miles to do it, that's a real problem."</p> <p>More information: Morley JW, Selden RL, Latour RJ, Frölicher TL, Seagraves RJ, Pinsky ML (2018) Projecting shifts in thermal habitat for 686 species on</p>	



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	the North American continental shelf. PLoS ONE 13(5): e0196127. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0196127	
Kaczorowski-4	<p>U.S. Navy training exercises in the Pacific Ocean could kill, injure, or harass whales, dolphins and other marine mammals 12.5 million times over the next five years.</p> <p>The permits as requested anticipate injuries to 3,346 marine mammals, including three endangered blue whales, 20 humpback whales, 10 minke whales, 93 California long-beaked dolphins, 46 Risso's dolphins, three critically endangered Hawaiian monk seals and 480 northern elephant seals.</p> <p>Ocean mammals depend on hearing for navigation, feeding and reproduction. Scientists have linked military sonar and live-fire activities to mass whale beaching, exploded eardrums and even death. In 2004, during war games near Hawaii, the Navy's sonar was implicated in a mass stranding of up to 200 melon-headed whales in Hanalei Bay, Kauai.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Kaczorowski-5	<p>Many marine animals rely on sound for survival that enable them to communicate, protect themselves, locate food, navigate underwater, and/or understand their environment. They may both produce sounds and listen to the sounds around them.</p> <p>The NWTTEIS /OEIS States That " Most mid-frequency sonar is not heard by marine invertebrates and most marine species ( Figure 5 Fish Hearing Group and Navy Bin Frequency Ranges ). Fish species known to detect mid-frequencies have their best sensitivities outside the range of operational sonars." This and the other Navy's emphasis that sonar and explosives and military expended materials will not significantly affect habitats, invertebrates or fishes in or near the vicinity of such activities is not supported by independent peer reviewed studies and ignores the complexities of marine species behaviors and physiology.</p> <p>How do marine animals use sound? See: <a href="https://dosits.org/animals/use-of-sound/how-do-marine-animals-use-sound">https://dosits.org/animals/use-of-sound/how-do-marine-animals-use-sound</a> (Copyright 2019 University of Rhode Island and Inner Space Center).</p> <p>"Sounds are particularly useful for communication because they can be used to convey a great deal of information quickly and over long distances. Changes in rate, pitch, and/or structure of sounds communicate different messages. In particular, fishes and marine mammals use sound for communications associated with reproduction and territoriality. Some marine mammals also use sound for the maintenance of group structure. Similar to sonar systems on ships, some whales use sound to detect, localize, and characterize objects. By emitting clicks, or short pulses of</p>	<p>The Navy's analysis in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS uses the best available science. There is no information in this comment that disputes any specific analysis in the EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>sound, these marine mammals can listen for echoes and detect objects underwater. This is called echolocation. Some whales and dolphins use echolocation to locate food. They send out pulsed sounds that are reflected back when they strike a target. The analysis of the echoes helps the animals determine the size and shape of an object, its location, whether it is moving, and how far away it is. Echolocation is an effective way to locate prey and also helps whales and dolphins analyze their environment.</p> <p>References</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radford, C. A., Stanley, J. A., Simpson, S. D., &amp; Jeffs, A. G. (2011). Juvenile coral reef fish use sound to locate habitats. <i>Coral Reefs</i>, 30(2), 295–305. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s00338-010-0710-6">https://doi.org/10.1007/s00338-010-0710-6</a></li> <li>• Radford, C., Stanley, J., Tindle, C., Montgomery, J., &amp; Jeffs, A. (2010). Localised coastal habitats have distinct underwater sound signatures. <i>Marine Ecology Progress Series</i>, 401, 21–29. <a href="https://doi.org/10.3354/meps08451">https://doi.org/10.3354/meps08451</a></li> <li>• Simpson, S. D., Meekan, M. G., Jeffs, A., Montgomery, J. C., &amp; McCauley, R. D. (2008). Settlement-stage coral reef fish prefer the higher-frequency invertebrate-generated audible component of reef noise. <i>Animal Behaviour</i>, 75(6), 1861–1868. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2007.11.004">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2007.11.004</a></li> <li>• Simpson, S. D., Radford, A. N., Tickle, E. J., Meekan, M. G., &amp; Jeffs, A. G. (2011). Adaptive avoidance of reef noise. <i>PLoS ONE</i>, 6(2), e16625. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0016625">https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0016625</a></li> </ul> <p>The Navy's NWTT Species Dive Distribution and Group Size Parameters Technical Report 29 October 2018 (Distribution and Group Size Parameters for Marine Species Occurring in the U.S. Navy's Northwest Training and Testing Study Area) states:</p> <p>"The recommended static depth distributions are provided for 31 marine animal species or guilds occurring within the NWTT Study Area. These distributions, especially those that rely on surrogates, should be updated periodically as new data become available. Also, for most species, only a single depth distribution is presented; ideally, each species should have multiple distributions available, depending on the behavior and age/sex class of the animals being modeled, as well as the geographic location and season in which the simulation occurs. More detailed depth distribution data will permit improved realism for the scenarios being modeled."</p> <p>The Navy's models and data in the above referenced report and other reports that comprise this 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and in the Supplemental</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	EIS/OEIS are outdated and biased toward supporting naval operations and do not protect noise-sensitive endangered species.	
Kaczorowski-6	<p>The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 provides for the conservation of species that are endangered or threatened throughout all or a significant portion of their range, and the conservation of the ecosystems on which they depend.</p> <p>The Navy's Study predicted that there would be a "take" of 500,000 marine mammals, "not necessarily a kill number but would involve behavioral impact, injury or harassment."</p> <p>Any type of take of any endangered species by the U.S. Navy should be prohibited for any take is a violation of the ESA.</p> <p>NOAA Fisheries has listed 22 species of marine mammals under the Endangered Species Act, where 8 of those species are from the West Coast. NOAA manages 7 different species of cetaceans (listed below) and Guadalupe fur seals. NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Region manages Steller sea lions.</p> <p>Blue Whales Fin Whales Guadalupe Fur Seals Central America Humpback Whale DPS * change in status, endangered as of October 2016 Mexico Humpback Whale DPS * change in status, threatened as of October 2016 Northern Pacific Right Whales Western North Pacific Gray Whales Sei Whales Southern Resident Killer Whales Sperm Whales</p> <p>According to NOAA (see <a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/gray-whale">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/gray-whale</a>):</p> <p>"The western population of Gray Whales remains very low, around 200 individuals, and is listed as endangered under the ESA and depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Gray whales are known for their curiosity toward boats and are the focus of whale watching and ecotourism along the west coast of North America. They thus face threats from vessel strikes and disturbance on their migration route. Gray whales make one of the longest annual migrations of any mammal, traveling about 10,000 miles round-trip."</p> <p>"Behavior and Diet"</p>	<p>The Navy has consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service and obtained a permit for takes resulting from the Navy's activities, in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>The Navy considered the information provided in the comment in its analysis of impacts to marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>"Gray whales are frequently observed traveling alone or in small, unstable groups, although large aggregations may be seen in feeding and breeding grounds. Like other baleen whales, long-term bonds between individuals are thought to be rare.</p> <p>They are primarily bottom feeders that consume a wide range of benthic (sea floor) and epibenthic (above the sea floor) invertebrates, such as amphipods. Gray whales suck sediment and food from the sea floor by rolling on their sides and swimming slowly along, filtering their food through 130 to 180 coarse baleen plates on each side of their upper jaw. In doing so, they often leave long trails of mud behind them and "feeding pits" in the sea floor."</p> <p>"Ocean Noise"</p> <p>"Underwater noise threatens whale populations, interrupting their normal behavior and driving them away from areas important to their survival. Increasing evidence suggests that exposure to intense underwater sound in some settings may cause some whales to strand and ultimately die."</p> <p>I am submitting as evidence the following video on the effects of Navy sonar training on marine mammals available at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9gDk29Y_YY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9gDk29Y_YY</a> This video shows how Navy sonar harms whales and dolphins.</p> <p>In addition, please see the following articles and data that I have included in my public comments as submitted:</p> <p>Advances in research on the impacts of anti-submarine sonar on beaked whales (BW)</p> <p><a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a></p> <p>Section 10. of the Report states:</p> <p>What information is there on beaked whales' reaction to naval exercises where mid-frequency active sonar was used?</p> <p>To assess the behavioural response of BWs to operational Navy MFAS on a Navy training range in southern California, 16 dive reporting satellite tags were attached to Cuvier's BWs [77]. Animals were exposed to two different types of MFAS signal: mid-source level helicopter deployed sonar (217 dB re1mPa @ 1 m), and the ship-based sonar (235 dB re 1mPa @1 m) implicated in most stranding events to date [78]. Although there was variation in response, tagged whales generally increased their time between foraging dives in the presence of sonar, with foraging disruption increasing in duration as the distance to sonar decreased.</p> <p>Unexpectedly, tagged whales responded to ship and helicopter sonar at roughly the same distances, which, given the significantly different source</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>levels, suggests that range to source, source type and/or context may play a large role in response to sonar, at least within a population that is regularly exposed [77]. Large-scale passive acoustic recording arrays have also been used to study changes in vocal patterns of BWs around navy ranges. A cessation of clicking was documented in the presence of sonar, indicating a reduction in foraging effort and/or spatial displacement of whales [79, 80].</p> <p>In the same paper entitled Advances in research on the impacts of anti-submarine sonar on beaked whales (BW) found at <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a></p> <p>The findings outlined in section 13 contradict the Department of Navy's insistence that mitigation would result in minimal take of species as stated in the Department of Navy's Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) in 2015 and the Supplemental NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS (for 2015 -2020).</p> <p>Again, the Navy's Study predicted that there would be a "take" of 500,000 marine mammals, "not necessarily a kill number but would involve behavioral impact, injury or harassment."</p> <p>The above paper also states:</p> <p>"The physiological changes experienced by BWs during MFAS exposure remain unknown and merit further investigation. However, the behavioural response described by DeRuiter et al. [76] and the live strandings of BWs associated with MFAS suggest that these animals are most likely to have experienced a 'flight or fight' response to escape the sonar. The flight response may override the dive response, as the exercise response can [56,59]. We suggest that if these changes are severe, they could drive the animals with individual risk factors to a non-reversible condition, leading to death. Since the physiological responses and health risk factors probably vary among individuals, this variability, and potential differences in exposure level, might explain why not all individuals in a local population strand or perish at the same time and location, as in typical mass stranding".</p> <p>Any harassment or behavioral impact or harm or even deaths upon marine species cannot be immediately seen or justified by the Navy during or after training exercises. Therefore the Navy's arguments are moot and Sonar and Explosives testing cannot be done along the Pacific Coast or migration paths of marine organisms species that depend upon acoustical ( sound or vibration) for navigation, feeding, breeding, or communication.</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The Navy's research or their cited data or model simulations as presented cannot prove or claim that their actions as described in this EIS/OEIS that the anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology is understood or that issues such as the development of decompression-like sickness in whales, and physiological responses of free-swimming marine species will be avoided or mitigated.</p> <p>As indicated in numerous research such as Noise in the Sea and Its Impacts on Marine Organisms and as published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 2015 Oct; 12(10): 12304–12323. (Published online 2015 Sep 30. <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4626970/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4626970/</a> doi: 10.3390/ijerph121012304 Noise in the Sea and Its Impacts on Marine Organisms</p> <p>Chao Peng, Xinguo Zhao, and Guangxu Liu*William E. Hawkins, Academic Editor)</p> <p>(The authors of this study declare no conflict of interest)</p> <p>"Studies showed that anthropogenic noise can cause auditory masking, leading to cochlear damage, changes in individual and social behavior, altered metabolisms, hampered population recruitment, and can subsequently affect the health and service functions of marine ecosystems. However, since different sampling methodologies and unstandardized measurements were used and the effects of noise on marine organisms are dependent on the characteristics of the species and noise investigated, it is difficult to compare the reported results. Moreover, the scarcity of studies carried out with other species and with larval or juvenile individuals severely constrains the present understanding of noise pollution. In addition, further studies are needed to reveal in detail the causes for the detected impacts.</p> <p>The French documentary The Silent World, co-directed by the famous French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau and director Louis Malle in 1956, presented a multi-colored and wonderful undersea world full of life and energy that satisfied the curiosity of audiences at the time. However, with the deepening of the investigation of this "world," the reality has proven not to be as silent as was initially thought. In fact, sound plays a vital role in the lives of many marine organisms in this undersea world. Without doubt, anthropogenic sound from cargo ships, sonar, seismic testing, drilling, pile drivers, recreational holiday ships, and etc. has continued to grow in the last century [1,2,3,4,5]. Consequently, the level of underwater background noise worldwide has increased correspondingly</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>due to increased anthropogenic activities, which gives rise to a new kind of pollution: noise pollution [6].</p> <p>Noise may cause stress in animals, increase the risk of mortality by unbalancing predator-prey interaction, and interfere with sound-based orientation and communication, especially in reproductive contexts [7].</p> <p>There is growing international concern regarding the impact of anthropogenic noise on marine organisms [8]. A number of studies have shown that the effects of anthropogenic sound on marine organisms can range from no influence to immediate death depending on the differences in the intensity and frequency of the noise and the distance from the noise source. However, the mechanisms underlying these effects are still poorly understood [3,9,10,11]."</p> <p>References</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Andrew R.K., Howe B.M., Mercer J.A., Dzieciuch M.A. Ocean ambient sound: Comparing the 1960s with the 1990s for a receiver off the California coast. <i>Acoust. Res. Lett.</i> 2002;3:65–70. doi: 10.1121/1.1461915. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</li> <li>2. Buscaino G., Filiciotto F., Buffa G., Bellante A., di Stefano V., Assenza A., Fazio F., Caola G., Mazzola S. Impact of an acoustic stimulus on the motility and blood parameters of European sea bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> L.) and gilthead sea bream (<i>Sparus aurata</i> L.) <i>Mar. Environ. Res.</i> 2010;69:136–142. doi: 10.1016/j.marenvres.2009.09.004. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</li> <li>3. Johansson K. Impact of Anthropogenic Noise on Fish Behaviour and Ecology. 2011. [(accessed on 11 July 2015)]. Available online: <a href="http://pub.epsilon.slu.se/8366/1/Johansson_K_111013.pdf">http://pub.epsilon.slu.se/8366/1/Johansson_K_111013.pdf</a>.</li> <li>4. Slotte A., Hansen K., Dalen J., Ona E. Acoustic mapping of pelagic fish distribution and abundance in relation to a seismic shooting area off the Norwegian west coast. <i>Fish. Res.</i> 2004;67:143–150. doi: 10.1016/j.fishres.2003.09.046. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</li> <li>5. Tyack P.L. Implications for marine mammals of large-scale changes in the marine acoustic environment. <i>J. Mammal.</i> 2008;89:549–558. doi: 10.1644/07-MAMM-S-307R.1. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</li> <li>6. Kastelein R.A., Heul S., Verboom W.C., Jennings N., Veen J., de Haan D. Startle response of captive North Sea fish species to underwater tones between 0.1 and 64 kHz. <i>Mar. Environ. Res.</i> 2008;65:369–377. doi: 10.1016/j.marenvres.2008.01.001. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</li> <li>7. Codarin A., Wysocki L.E., Ladich F., Picciulin M. Effects of ambient and boat noise on hearing and communication in three fish species living in a</li> </ol>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>marine protected area (Miramare, Italy) Mar. Pollut. Bull. 2009;58:1880–1887. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2009.07.011. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>8. André M. The sperm whale sonar: Monitoring and use in mitigation of anthropogenic noise effects in the marine environment. Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys. Res. Sect. A. 2009;602:262–267. doi: 10.1016/j.nima.2008.12.223. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>9. Kight C.R., Swaddle J.P. How and why environmental noise impacts animals: An integrative, mechanistic review. Ecol. Lett. 2011;14:1052–1061. doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2011.01664.x. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>10. Popper A.N., Hastings M.C. The effects of human-generated sound on fish. Integr. Zool. 2009;4:43–52. doi: 10.1111/j.1749-4877.2008.00134.x. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>11. Slabbekoorn H., Bouton N., van Opzeeland I., Coers A., Cate C., Popper A.N. A noisy spring: The impact of globally rising underwater sound levels on fish. Trends Ecol. Evolut. 2010;25:419–427. doi: 10.1016/j.tree.2010.04.005. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>12. Conservation and Development Problem Solving Team. Anthropogenic Noise in the Marine Environment: Potential Impacts on the Marine Resources and Stellwagen Bank and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries. University of Maryland; Maryland, MD, USA: 2000. pp. 18–19. [Google Scholar]</p> <p>13. Rogers P.H., Cox H. Underwater sound as a biological stimulus. In: Atema J., Fay R.R., Popper A.N., editors. Sensory Biology of Aquatic Animals. Springer-Verlag; New York, NY, USA: 1988. pp. 131–149. [Google Scholar]</p> <p>14. Pitcher T.J. Behaviour of Teleost Fishes. 2nd ed. Chapman &amp; Hall; London, UK: 1992. [Google Scholar]</p> <p>15. Simmonds J., MacLennan D.N. Fisheries Acoustics: Theory and Practice. 2nd ed. Blackwell Publishing; Oxford, UK: 2005. [Google Scholar]</p> <p>16. Helfman G., Collette B.B., Facey D.E., Bowen B.W. The Diversity of Fishes: Biology, Evolution and Ecology. 2nd ed. Wiley-Blackwell; Chichester, UK: 2009. [Google Scholar]</p> <p>17. Hawkins A., Rasmussen K.J. The calls of gadoid fish. J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. UK. 1978;58:891–911. doi: 10.1017/S0025315400056848. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>18. Everest F.A., Young R.W., Johnson M.W. Acoustical characteristics of noise produced by snapping shrimp. J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 2005;20:137–142.</p>	



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
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**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
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**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
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**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
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**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Biol. Lett. 2010;6:458–461. doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2009.1081. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>61. Wale M.A., Simpson S.D., Radford A.N. Noise negatively affects foraging and antipredator behaviour in shore crabs. Anim. Behav. 2013;86:111–118. doi: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2013.05.001. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>62. David J.A. Likely sensitivity of bottlenose dolphins to pile-driving noise. Water Environ. J. 2006;20:48–54. doi: 10.1111/j.1747-6593.2005.00023.x. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>63. Miller P.J., Biassoni N., Samuels A., Tyack P.L. Whale songs lengthen in response to sonar. Nature. 2000;405:903–903. doi: 10.1038/35016148. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>64. Parks S.E., Clark C.W., Tyack P.L. Short- and long-term changes in right whale calling behavior: The potential effects of noise on acoustic communication. J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 2007;122:3725–3731. doi: 10.1121/1.2799904. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>65. Frankel A., Clark C. Behavioral responses of humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae) to full-scale ATOC signals. J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 2000;108:1930–1937. doi: 10.1121/1.1289668. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>66. Bailey H., Senior B., Simmons D., Rusin J., Picken G., Thompson P.M. Assessing underwater noise levels during pile-driving at an offshore windfarm and its potential effects on marine mammals. Mar. Pollut. Bull. 2010;60:888–897. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2010.01.003. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>67. Wardle C., Carter T., Urquhart G., Johnstone A., Ziolkowski A., Hampson G., Mackie D. Effects of seismic air guns on marine fish. Cont. Shelf Res. 2001;21:1005–1027. doi: 10.1016/S0278-4343(00)00122-9. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>68. Frantz A. Does acoustic testing strand whales? Nature. 1998;392 doi: 10.1038/32068. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>69. Klima E.F., Gitschlag G.R., Renaud M.L. Impacts of the explosive removal of offshore petroleum on sea turtles and dolphins. Mar. Fish. Rev. 1988;50:33–42. [Google Scholar]</p> <p>70. Cox T.M., Ragen T.J., Read A.J., Vos E., Baird R.W., Balcomb K., Barlow J., Caldwell J., Cranford T., Crum L., et al. Understanding the impacts of anthropogenic sound on beaked whales. J. Cetacean Res. Manag. 2006;7:177–187. [Google Scholar]</p> <p>71. Fernández A., Edwards J.F., Rodríguez F., Espinosa de los Monteros A., Herráez P., Castro P., Jaber J.R., Martín V., Arbelo M. “Gas and fat embolic</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>syndrome” involving a mass stranding of beaked whales (family Ziphiidae) exposed to anthropogenic sonar signals. <i>Vet. Pathol.</i> 2005;42:446–457. doi: 10.1354/vp.42-4-446. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>72. Jepson P.D., Arbelo M., Deaville R., Patterson I.A.P., Castro P., Baker J.R., Degollada E., Ross H.M., Herráez P., Pocknell A.M., et al. Gas-bubble lesions in stranded cetaceans: Was sonar responsible for a spate of whale deaths after an Atlantic military exercise? <i>Nature.</i> 2003;425:575–576. doi: 10.1038/425575a. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>73. Morton A. Displacement of <i>Orcinus orca</i> (L.) by high amplitude sound in British Columbia, Canada. <i>ICES J. Mar. Sci.</i> 2002;59:71–80. doi: 10.1006/jmsc.2001.1136. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>74. Carstensen J., Henriksen O.D., Teilmann J. Impacts of offshore wind farm construction on harbour porpoises: Acoustic monitoring of echolocation activity using porpoise detectors (T-PODs) <i>Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.</i> 2006;321:295–308. doi: 10.3354/meps321295. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>75. Thompson P.M., Lusseau D., Barton T., Simmons D., Rusin J., Bailey H. Assessing the responses of coastal cetaceans to the construction of offshore wind turbines. <i>Mar. Pollut. Bull.</i> 2010;60:1200–1208. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2010.03.030. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>76. Engås A., Løkkeborg S. Effects of seismic shooting and vessel-generated noise on fish behaviour and catch rates. <i>Bioacoustics.</i> 2002;12:313–316. doi: 10.1080/09524622.2002.9753733. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>77. Parry G.D., Gason A. The effect of seismic surveys on catch rates of rock lobsters in western Victoria, Australia. <i>Fish. Res.</i> 2006;79:272–284. doi: 10.1016/j.fishres.2006.03.023. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>78. Wilhelmsson D., Malm T., Ohman M. The influence of offshore windpower on demersal fish. <i>ICES J. Mar. Sci.</i> 2006;63:775–784. doi: 10.1016/j.icesjms.2006.02.001. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>79. Pearson W.H., Skalski J.R., Sulkin S.D., Malme C.I. Effects of seismic energy releases on the survival and development of zoeal larvae of dungeness crab (<i>Cancer magister</i>) <i>Mar. Environ. Res.</i> 1994;38:93–113. doi: 10.1016/0141-1136(94)90003-5. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>80. Pine M.K., Jeffs A.G., Radford C.A. Turbine sound may influence the metamorphosis behaviour of estuarine crab megalopae. <i>PLoS ONE.</i> 2012;7 doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0051790. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>81. Romano T.A., Keogh M.J., Kelly C., Feng P., Berk L., Schlundt C.E., Carder D.A., Finneran J.J. Anthropogenic sound and marine mammal health:</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Measures of the nervous and immune systems before and after intense sound exposure. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2004;61:1124–1134. doi: 10.1139/f04-055. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>82. Wale M.A., Simpson S.D., Radford A.N. Size-dependent physiological responses of shore crabs to single and repeated playback of ship noise. Biol. Lett. 2013;9 doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2012.1194. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>83. Anderson P.A., Berzins I.K., Fogarty F., Hamlin H.J., Guillet L.J. Sound, stress, and seahorses: The consequences of a noisy environment to animal health. Aquaculture. 2011;311:129–138. doi: 10.1016/j.aquaculture.2010.11.013. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>84. Santulli A., Modica A., Messina C., Ceffa L., Curatolo A., Rivas G., Fabi G., D’amelio V. Biochemical responses of European sea bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> L.) to the stress induced by off shore experimental seismic prospecting. Mar. Pollut. Bull. 1999;38:1105–1114. doi: 10.1016/S0025-326X(99)00136-8. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>85. Casper B.M., Halvorsen M.B., Matthews F., Carlson T.J., Pooper A.N. Recovery of barotraumas injuries resulting from exposure to pile driving sound in two sizes of hybrid striped bass. PLoS ONE. 2013;8 doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0073844. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>86. Lyamin O.I., Korneva S.M., Rozhnov V.V., Mukhametov L.M. Cardiorespiratory changes in beluga in response to acoustic noise. Dokl. Biol. Sci. 2011;440:257–258. doi: 10.1134/S0012496611050218. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>87. Celi M., Filiciotto F., Vazzana M., Arizza V., Maccarrone V., Ceraulo M., Mazzola S., Buscaino G. Shipping noise affecting immune responses of European spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) Can. J. Zool. 2014;93:113–121. doi: 10.1139/cjz-2014-0219. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>88. Filiciotto F., Giacalone V.M., Fazio F., Buffa G., Piccione G., Maccarrone V., di Stefano V., Mazzola S., Buscaino G. Effect of acoustic environment on gilthead sea bream (<i>Sparus aurata</i>): Sea and onshore aquaculture background noise. Aquaculture. 2013;414:36–45. doi: 10.1016/j.aquaculture.2013.07.042. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p> <p>89. Papoutsoglou S.E., Karakatsouli N., Batzina A., Papoutsoglou E.S., Tsopelakos A. Effect of music stimulus on gilthead seabream <i>Sparus aurata</i> physiology under different light intensity in a re-circulating water system. J. Fish Biol. 2008;73:980–1004. doi: 10.1111/j.1095-8649.2008.02001.x. [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Kaczorowski-7	<p>Here is another article that disputes the Navy’s arguments that takings of marine species is based on best available science: Does Military Sonar Kill Marine Wildlife? © 2019 Scientific American, a Division of Springer Nature America, Inc. Title of Article: “The frequency used in military testing could be harmful to some animals” Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that military sonar exercises actually kill marine wildlife? -- John Slocum, Newport, RI</p> <p>Unfortunately for many whales, dolphins and other marine life, the use of underwater sonar (short for sound navigation and ranging) can lead to injury and even death. Sonar systems—first developed by the U.S. Navy to detect enemy submarines—generate slow-rolling sound waves topping out at around 235 decibels; the world’s loudest rock bands top out at only 130. These sound waves can travel for hundreds of miles under water, and can retain an intensity of 140 decibels as far as 300 miles from their source. These rolling walls of noise are no doubt too much for some marine wildlife. While little is known about any direct physiological effects of sonar waves on marine species, evidence shows that whales will swim hundreds of miles, rapidly change their depth (sometime leading to bleeding from the eyes and ears), and even beach themselves to get away from the sounds of sonar.</p> <p>In January 2005, 34 whales of three different species became stranded and died along North Carolina’s Outer Banks during nearby offshore Navy sonar training. Other sad examples around the coast of the U.S. and elsewhere abound, notably in recent years with more sonar testing going on than ever before. According to the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which has campaigned vigorously to ban use of the technology in waters rich in marine wildlife, recent cases of whale strandings likely represent a small fraction of sonar’s toll, given that severely injured animals rarely make it to shore.</p> <p>In 2003, NRDC spearheaded a successful lawsuit against the Navy to restrict the use of low-frequency sonar off the coast of California. Two years later a coalition of green groups led by NRDC and including the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the League for Coastal Protection, Cetacean Society International, and Ocean Futures Society upped the ante, asking the federal courts to also restrict testing of more intense, harmful and far ranging mid-frequency types of sonar off Southern California’s coastline. In filing their brief, the groups cited Navy documents which estimated that</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, and the “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)” (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>).</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>such testing would kill some 170,000 marine mammals and cause permanent injury to more than 500 whales, not to mention temporary deafness for at least 8,000 others. Coalition lawyers argued that the Navy's testing was in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Two lower courts upheld NRDC's claims, but the Supreme Court ruled that the Navy should be allowed to continue the use of some mid-frequency sonar testing for the sake of national security. "The decision places marine mammals at greater risk of serious and needless harm," says NRDC's Joel Reynolds.</p> <p>Environmental groups are still fighting the battle against the sonar, lobbying the government to curtail testing, at least during peacetime, or to at least ramp up testing gradually to give marine wildlife a better chance to flee affected areas. "The U.S. Navy could use a number of proven methods to avoid harming whales when testing mid-frequency sonar," reports IFAW's Fred O'Regan. "Protecting whales and preserving national security are not mutually exclusive."</p> <p>And gain another article: Sonar Can Literally Scare Whales to Death, Study Finds By Mindy Weisberger, Senior Writer   January 30, 2019 01:12pm ET (Live Science)</p> <p>Mindy Weisberger is a senior writer for Live Science covering general science topics, especially those relating to brains, bodies, and behaviors in humans and other animals — living and extinct. Mindy studied filmmaking at Columbia University; her videos about dinosaurs, biodiversity, human origins, evolution, and astrophysics appear in the American Museum of Natural History, on YouTube, and in museums and science centers worldwide.</p> <p>Scientists first noted a connection between mass strandings of Cuvier's beaked whales and naval exercises using sonar in the late 1980s, lead study author Yara Bernaldo de Quirós, a researcher at the Institute for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in Spain, told Live Science in an email.</p> <p>That link strengthened after similar stranding events in Greece in 1996 and in the Bahamas in 2000, de Quirós added. And in September 2002, when 14 beaked whales stranded in the Canary Islands during a NATO naval exercise, veterinary pathologists discovered lesions in the animals that were "consistent with a decompression sickness," de Quirós said.</p> <p>Fight or flight</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>In 2017, biologists studying beaked whales gathered for a workshop to analyze findings about strandings from the past decades, looking at mass strandings that were linked to nearby naval exercises using sonar. Between 2002 and 2014, six mass strandings took place in Greece, the Canary Islands and Almería in southeastern Spain, but the dead whales did not appear to be malnourished or sick. However, they displayed "abundant gas bubbles" throughout their veins, blood clots in multiple organs and microscopic hemorrhages "of varying severity" in body tissues. Beached whales may have experienced "a fight or flight response" that overrode a key diving adaptation: the lowering of heart rate, which reduces oxygen consumption and prevents nitrogen accumulation. The result was hemorrhages and "massive bubble formation in their tissues," de Quirós explained.</p> <p>These symptoms of decompression sickness likely afflicted the whales after they were spooked by sonic blasts, according to the study.</p> <p>"The temporal and spatial association with naval exercises with use of sonar is very clear," de Quirós said in the email. What's more, behavioral studies have shown that whales that have never encountered sonar (or that have been exposed to it only occasionally) typically exhibit a stronger response than animals living near military outposts, she added.</p> <p>In 2004, Spain banned sonar in Canary Islands waters, a mass-strandings hotspot. No mass strandings have taken place since the ban was enacted, "proving the effectiveness of this mitigation," de Quirós said.</p> <p>Based on their findings, the study authors recommended more-widespread bans on military exercises using sonar across the Mediterranean Sea, where atypical mass strandings of beaked whales still take place. Further research will determine the long-term impact of mass strandings on beaked whale populations, the authors wrote in the study.</p> <p>The findings were published online Jan. 30 2019) in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.</p>	
Kaczorowski-8	<p>The CASE for Alternative Navy Trainings: 1/25/2019 By Connie Lee Navy Turns to Simulators Following Deadly Collisions © 2019 National Defense Industrial Association Longer term plans include pursuing a new maritime skills training program that includes the installation of new simulation systems and instructors, Pennington said. The program will provide a "holistic approach" to training, Pennington noted.</p>	<p>The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4 (Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The Navy will deliver simulators to six locations in fiscal year 2021, which include Yokosuka, Japan; Sasebo, Japan; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Everett, Washington; San Diego; and Mayport, Florida. Simulators will be delivered to Norfolk, Virginia; Rota, Spain; and Bahrain in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the statement said.</p> <p>“The technology that we’re going to bring ... is going to be outstanding,” Pennington said. “In the interim, we’re going to try to get as much capability to the left [of schedule] to modify the existing NSSTs to ensure that we have that integrated training.” Future simulation tools will also have an improved playback capability to allow students to see their performance after completing training exercises. He envisioned having a separate room dedicated to conducting debriefings. This format would allow instructors to point out specific mistakes made during the exercise on a screen rather than rely on memory and notes, he said.</p> <p>“A lot of times, what we have found is that during the debriefs, the watchstanders [would say,] ‘No, I didn’t do that.’ ... We used to have these debates, and it was always a bad feeling at the end,” he said. “As an instructor, I could never prove to that watchstander, ‘No you really did.’”</p> <p>Navy to Open New Facility for Live-Virtual-Constructive Training Technology (UPDATED)  <a href="http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2018/11/30/navy-to-open-new-facility-for-live-virtual-and-constructive-technology-work-11/30/2018">http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2018/11/30/navy-to-open-new-facility-for-live-virtual-and-constructive-technology-work-11/30/2018</a>            By Connie Lee            ORLANDO, Fla. — The Navy is opening a new facility that will allow members of industry, government and academia to work on live-virtual-constructive training initiatives year-round.            The facility will be like Operation Blended Warrior “on steroids,” Kent Gritton, LVC for training team lead at the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, said Nov. 29 at the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Florida.            Operation Blended Warrior is an annual event held at I/ITSEC that allows participants to work on a common network in a wargame-like environment. LVC training technologies include simulation and virtual reality products.            The Future of War May Be Virtual            The U.S. is investing billions into virtual reality training for the military by 2022.  <a href="https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2018-03-20/the-us-military-wants-to-lead-the-innovation-game-in-vr">https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2018-03-20/the-us-military-wants-to-lead-the-innovation-game-in-vr</a></p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Training military personnel to keep up with new technology has always been a challenging and expensive process and is long due for a change, say experts. By 2022, as much as \$11 billion will go to virtual, augmented and mixed reality training systems, with virtual reality becoming a primary focus of military innovation.</p> <p>While projections vary in this new industry, the virtual reality market is rapidly expanding worldwide. Overall the global VR market is expected to reach \$75 billion by 2021, with China's demand potentially surpassing 85 million units by 2021 and passing America's 68 million units forecast. With the consumer sector driving innovation and spending on the market, in countries such as the U.K., South Korea and Australia, platforms have also been developed for incorporating VR strategies in the government sector, such as the military.</p> <p>According to a brief sponsored by Samsung and put together by FedScoop, a media platform covering the federal government market, the U.S. Department of Defense has relied so far on live training sessions, simulating true-to-life battle scenarios, computers simulators or interaction with avatars in a so-called "synthetic environment." For "synthetic" digital training alone, the U.S. spends around \$14 billion a year, the brief shows. But as technology is making progress and mobile technology improves, so are the training methods for the troops.</p> <p>Thanks to courses and simulators that can now work on mobile devices with only VR gear attached, soldiers can now be trained anywhere in the world through cloud-shared content. They can simulate using new weapons, engage in new military strategies, even practice high-risk jumps from military planes. Additionally, veterans can immerse themselves in therapeutic environments to help them cope with their post-war anxiety.</p> <p>"The U.S. Department of Defense is leading the charts relative to immersive (technologies)", says Chris Balcik, vice president of federal government sales for Samsung, the electronics company that also produces technology for military use. "There is a lot of capability that we have just started to scratch the surface on where the needs can really go so that the use of virtual, augmented, mixed realities be a complement to that large footprint of that live, virtual, constructed space [currently used in military training]."</p>	
Kaczyk-1	<p>Growler training endangers the natural quiet in Olympic National Park, the quality of life for Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula residents, and the attractiveness of Whidbey Island and the Olympic Peninsula to tourism, which is an economic backbone of these communities.</p> <p>In particular, flying over Olympic National Park degrades one of our</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>countries quietest places – Olympic National Park – as well as surrounding communities and public lands.</p> <p>The Navy has alternative locations for these training missions which do not involve flying over Olympic National Park. While the Navy has other options, there is only one Olympic National Park, one of the most natural sounding places left in the contiguous United States, and the most visited national park in the Northwest. The Olympics should sound like a national park, not a Navy airbase.</p> <p>We emphatically state our opposition to increased Growler training and to urge the Navy to use other locations to meet its training needs.</p>	<p>Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Kadan-1	<p>This coastline of Northern CA is a major migration route for whales such as grays and humpbacks, as well as orcas and blue whales. While the plan is to test within 12 miles of the coastline, it seems to ignore the extent to which sound travels, underwater and through the air. Even 2 or 3 hundred miles from its source sonar can produce a sound as high as 140 decibels, which is many times the level known to alter the behavior of whales. This use of high intensity mid frequency sonar will be harmful to more than a dozen protected species of marine mammals. The use of sonar has been proven to have been linked to many cases in which beached whales that have died from baro- trauma following sonar exercises conducted by the U.S. Navy. Noise pollution negatively impacts not only whales. We also have dolphins and many species of fish off our coast which will be affected by the noise, Ocean mammals depend on their hearing for navigation, and live-fire activities and military sonar have been linked to mass beaching of whales, burst eardrums, and death.</p> <p>How will the Navy guarantee it will not disrupt life sustaining behaviors of marine mammals, which they are dependent upon for survival?</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Kal-1	<p>Horrible! That must be stopped. It is cruel and harmful.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Kaluhiokalani-1	<p>I believe the finalization of the Navy's suspension of North Coast testing should come with haste. The Tribes concerns should be heard out. The government-government negotiation should take the side of the tribes and the natural ecosystem being affected. From the basis of where we</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	developed sonar, marine mammals should be respected and harm against these all these species listed in the Draft EIS should be stopped.	<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kamaruzaman-1	100% against harmful underwater sonar testing	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kanieski-1	<p>I am suggesting an adaptive management approach be considered when considering impacts on southern resident orca whales, which are at critical levels of risk. This is an area where we have direct influence and these types of activities can be done with lower frequency or outside their range. Thank you.</p> <p>Overall, I believe we invest too many financial resources in military readiness for "war". The nature of conflict and risks to humanity have changed. Let's take military money and spend it on mitigating and adapting to global warming and environmental destruction.</p>	As described in Section 5.1.2.2.1.1 (Adaptive Management) of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has been and will continue to be engaged in an adaptive management review process with the National Marine Fisheries Service the Marine Mammal Commission, and other experts in the scientific community.
Kanzell-1	<p>To all it may concern</p> <p>I just returned from 9 days on the lost coast of California</p> <p>It had been 20 years since I was last there and it seemed nothing had changed. The rugged beauty of the land evident.</p> <p>What was remarkable to me was the magnificent bio diversity I found in both marine life as well shore flora and fauna</p> <p>To see how, even with humans walking the shore each day, the respect of "leaving no trace " clearly honored</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	We have such limited resources such as these as the animals know that I urge all concerned to strongly consider this when thinking about the impact testing will and does have on the land and sea we all share Let us not take this all for granted Thank you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinemonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinemonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kapow-1	I am 100% in opposition to sonar testing!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Karki-1	To Whom this May Concern, I'm appalled that this testing and training is even a consideration knowing the potential damage on our marine life. It would be really great if the people making these decisions actually considered things like the environment, our children and grandchildren and even us in the time that we have left, and the fact that our country is not in danger, so these tests are a waste of money in addition to hurtful to the ecosystem. Please reconsider these unnecessary actions.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinemonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinemonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Karkruff-1	Gray Whales are stranding along our west coast in greater numbers than the past. Shipping lanes and coastal boating traffic are causing many	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>injuries. Plastic pollution is rupturing whale stomachs and blocking their digestive systems causing them to starve. Norwegian and Japanese whaling is ongoing. Adding military sonar that disrupts a whale's "vision" of its world will speed their demise. The ocean is already losing species, for example the coastal kelp forests which is nursery habitat for many lower level food species.</p> <p>Please listen to the Bioneers podcast, Whale Whisperers by James Nestor and read Seaweed Chronicles by Susan Hand Shetterly.</p>	<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kaufman-1	<p>Please support our Orcas in the Salish Sea. Whales of all kinds are an inspiration and since I was young they have all brought me joy and peace, especially knowing they were out there and doing well. I grew up knowing and hearing the phrase "Save the whales". It has never left me. I don't want any danger caused by humans to interfere with their numbers. Right now is a hard time for our Orcas due to dwindling food supplies. Please stop the sonar testing. I'm asking that the needs of the Navy be stopped or be met elsewhere, not sure where, but not in the Salish Sea during this difficult time of dwindling salmon population for our magical Orca beauties.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Kaul-1	<p>I am strongly opposed to increasing the growlers at OLF, and to conducting training and testing activities at sea and around the Olympic Peninsula. As a library staff member, I have read some of the EIS, and seen that the study's own scientists confirmed that both these escalations of military testing will seriously harm the marine environment, the local economies, and impact residents tremendously.</p> <p>Where our local orca population is concerned" mitigation" is not going to help-- sonar and explosives will be the death knell for these endangered creatures, who depend entirely on echolocation to locate food, communicate and navigate. I received a card saying the Draft EIS evaluated new, relevant information -- and as I read the conclusions, they affirm that the exercises are seriously detrimental to schools, hospitals and general Whidbey Island's quality of life. I live near Double Bluff, and already hear too many Growlers,- and friends from the Coupeville area are dismayed at</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>what this onslaught is doing to their economy, real estate values and peace.</p> <p>At the library I have heard comments from many people that this is "an outrage" or "a terrible location" to conduct these activities. I stand with the Sound Defense Alliance in opposing this move, and urge you to take this business elsewhere.</p>	
Kaur-1	<p>I am completely against this. The US Navy obviously doesnt give a <i>[expletive deleted]</i> about these beautiful creatures that have been on Earth longer than we have. The Navy has known that they're tests affect these mammals severely but they don't have enough respect for them to stop doing these tests or to at least find another spot to carry out these tests. This isn't acceptable. The Navy needs to stop being selfish and make some changes. Good changes. Please stop this cruelty, and stop it as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kayler-1	<p>We are on the north end of Camano Island. We have been here for a year and a half. Last summer, the planes didn't bother me. There were days were they were active and days when they were not. Now, it seems they are flying all the time and more and more often they start up right when we are going to bed in the evening.</p> <p>This afternoon we had one fly so low over our house I had to cover my ears and it vibrated my whole body. My husband was using the weed eater and he could hear over that! If I had had my phone with me I would have recorded it, because it was WAY TOO LOUD! And that was the lowest I had ever seen one of those planes fly over us.</p> <p>We do not expect the Navy to stop flying, but we do feel that there should be some consideration for the residents of Widbey and Camano.</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.</p>
Keegan-1	<p>The infringement of the Naval exercises is beyond imagination. Our beautiful island and peninsula are under seige. People are being diagnosed with brain tumors at an alarming rate. Noise from Growlers shakes houses, businesses and the earth beneath our feet. Are you at war</p>	<p>Growler noise on Whidbey Island is outside the scope of the NWTTE EIS/OEIS. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	with the citizens of Whidbey Island and the Western Peninsula? Anything you can do here, you can do in the large, uninhabited areas of the US. Take a road trip and introduce yourselves to the pristine lands where people haven't developed. Where people don't call home. I moved here from San Diego in large part to get away from the military incursion. Now, 27 years later, here we are again. This is my home. You have the base at the north end, beyond that, it belongs to the property owners. You must observe the boundaries of life, as we all must. Please stop. You are not welcome here.	
Keenan-1	Please stop sonar testing.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kelk-1	Please no more flights! You're driving us crazy already.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Keller-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kelly B-1	The U.S. Navy is plans to expand war-training exercises off the Coast of California near the path of the annual Gray Whale migration including the use of sonar, explosions and release of chemicals into the ocean. Gray	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Whales travel through this environment two times a year. Our family lives on the Ocean in Mendocino, Ca and our family of four opposes the Navy's desire to conduct these exercises in our backyard.	<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kelly C-1	I am a veteran who served my country during the Vietnam Conflict...I was raised in Anacortes and am being driven from my home by the noise. Please consider my declining years. I am not a scientist with facts and figures. Only a US citizen and veteran who wishes the best for the nation and the people of that nation....Please curtail flights over populated areas.	The activities proposed in the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Kelly K-1	the navy does not do real noise monitoring of the growlers. therefore they are unable to accurately judge the harm caused by the noise. I am unable to be outside while they are flying over my house.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Kelso-1	Comments are in attached file as Word document.	See responses below.
Kelso-2	I write this in haste, as I have just learned that the comment period for the Navy EIS regarding an extension of the permit to perform warfare training on the Olympic Peninsula ends on 12 June 2019. First, a full 90 days should be granted to allow for comments to the Navy's proposals, as is standard for an EIS of this scope. Second, the No Action Alternative is the only one which is acceptable to protect our increasingly fragile ecosystem here on the Olympic Peninsula, and the only one which will grant our communities freedom from continued assault. I have lived on the outskirts of the community of Port	The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Townsend for over thirty years, settling here because of the beauty and peace of the place, and this is quickly being eroded by the Navy's current escalation of activities, which is projected to get very much worse if you are allowed to proceed with plans to increase training and testing in our area. Please choose to do the right thing for our environment and your neighboring communities here on the Olympic Peninsula, and do not expand your warfare training exercises onto our home land.	
Kemper-1	I think it would be important to look at past studies similar on to these tests and fins what kind effects these tests have on marine life and to also consider the changing environment. Which is to say would your tests be even more impactful towards marine life with climate change.	The Navy uses the best available science, reviewing and considering thousands of past studies in reaching the conclusions in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Navy considers the current affected environment, which includes the affects of climate change. Additionally, the Navy has conducted similar activities for decades in the NWTT Study Area, with no indication of harm to any fish or marine invertebrate species. Additionally, the Navy is committed to improving the body of scientific knowledge, and in fact is the largest funding source in the world on marine mammal and marine acoustic research.
Kennedy-1	<p>I am writing in opposition to the draft EIS/OEIS Supplemental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Training and Testing, which would extend for another five years the Navy's practice of flying Growlers over the Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The Navy should take its electromagnetic beam emitter training to a site designated for warfare training, for example in Idaho and Nevada; the Olympic Peninsula is NOT such an area. It is not a question of whether the Navy should train; the point is that the Navy should take its training to an area where such training is legal and appropriate, and not continue to conduct it in the most pristine, unspoiled area of the United States!</p> <p>My husband and I live a short distance from the Olympic National Park boundary, having purchased our property primarily for the peace and quiet. Our daily walks, however, are repeatedly interrupted by the obnoxious and long-lasting Growler noise. The idea of having to live with these impacts (and increased impacts) for another five years is completely unacceptable.</p> <p>But even worse is the noise and disruption on the Olympic coast. I have visited Kalaloch for nearly 60 years, since childhood; it is one of my favorite places in the whole world. My husband and I went there again for a holiday last week—our first visit to the coast since the Growler flights began. The environment was utterly degraded by the Growlers going back and forth overhead, up and down the west coast. We heard them even inside our</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>cabin at Kalaloch Lodge, until nearly 10 pm at night! If it was awful for us (it was), we can imagine how disruptive it is for the people and other creatures who live there. Furthermore, as a matter of environmental justice, it is completely wrong to foist these impacts on the many indigenous peoples who live on the Olympic coast.</p> <p>It is well-established that noise such as that of the Growlers causes and aggravates health problems, including heart disease and high blood pressure. It also particularly traumatic to people who suffer from PTSD, and who come to the silence of the Olympics for solace. Many people, including my husband and I, find spiritual refuge in the peace and quiet of the mountains. It is not an overstatement to say that Growlers thundering overhead make it impossible to have these types of experiences.</p> <p>The noise from the flights also will affect the economic benefits to local communities. Park visitors provide huge economic benefits to the communities near the park; the cumulative benefit to the local economy is estimated at \$385 million. People come to the Olympic National Park as the last best place for peace and quiet; why would they come if it's just another noisy, compromised natural environment?</p> <p>Please do not approve the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and take the Growler flights to an already-designated training site.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of these comments.</p>	
Kennedy-2	<p>I am writing in opposition to the draft EIS/DEIS Supplemental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Training and Testing, which would extend for another five years the Navy's practice of flying Growlers over the Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The Navy should take its electromagnetic beam emitter training to a site designated for warfare training, for example in Idaho and Nevada; the Olympic Peninsula is NOT such an area. It is not a question of whether the Navy should train; the point is that the Navy should take its training to an area where such training is legal and appropriate, and not continue to conduct it in the most pristine, unspoiled area of the United States!</p> <p>My husband and I live a short distance from the Olympic National Park boundary, having purchased our property primarily for the peace and quiet. Our daily walks, however, are repeatedly interrupted by the obnoxious and long-lasting Growler noise. The idea of having to live with these impacts (and increased impacts) for another five years is completely unacceptable.</p> <p>But even worse is the noise and disruption on the Olympic coast. I have</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>visited Kalaloch for nearly 60 years, since childhood; it is one of my favorite places in the whole world. My husband and I went there again for a holiday last week-our first visit to the coast since the Growler flights began. The environment was utterly degraded by the Growlers going back and forth overhead, up and down the west coast. We heard them even inside our cabin at Kalaloch Lodge, until nearly 10 pm at night! If it was awful for us (it was), we can imagine how disruptive it's for the people and other creatures who live there. Furthermore, as a matter of environmental justice, it is completely wrong to foist these impacts on the many indigenous peoples who live on the Olympic coast.</p> <p>It is well-established that noise such as that of the Growlers causes and aggravates health problems, including heart disease and high blood pressure. It also particularly traumatic to people who suffer from PTSD, and who come to the silence of the Olympics for solace. Many people, including my husband and I, find spiritual refuge in the peace and quiet of the mountains. It is not an overstatement to say that Growlers thundering overhead make it impossible to have these types of experiences. The noise from the flights also will affect the economic benefits to local communities. Park visitors provide huge economic benefits to the communities near the park; the cumulative benefit to the local economy is estimated at \$385 million. People come to the Olympic National Park as the last best place for peace and quiet; why would they come if it's just another noisy, compromised natural environment?</p> <p>Please do not approve the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and take the Growler flights to an already-designated training site.</p>	
Kennon-1	<p>Animal Cruelty Period</p> <p>These Actions are completely inhumane and destructive to the environment!</p> <p>A child understands this!! Can you?</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Kerbaugh-1	<p>I have just learned of an EIS put out by the U.S. Navy on March 29, which is very disturbing to me/us. The only EIS alternative that is acceptable is the No Action Alternative. The other options given are unacceptable to the environment and life on the Olympic Peninsula. Alternatives 1 and 2 would cause unforgivable and unnecessary damage to Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Alternative 2 is the most extreme.</p>	<p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The length of the EIS, the great area it affects, and the many people it affects requires a 90-day comment period. This, so the EIS can be examined properly and thoroughly. Please ask the Navy for another 14-day extension of the comment period.</p> <p>The noise from multiple jet flights over the western and northern parts of the Peninsula will chase residents and visitors away. This will affect the health and economy of the Peninsula and the state of Washington. The search pattern of jet Growler flights looking for emitters would roar above the ocean beaches; the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges; Washington State Department of Natural Resources land; Quinault, Quileute and Hoh Reservations; and thousands of acres of private land, including the towns of Forks and Amanda Park.</p> <p>The Navy admits to 85–100 decibels of noise per pass. That is enough to cause hearing loss and contribute to other health problems. People in Forks have recorded 94 decibel flights under the current operations. While noise is known to affect people and no studies have been done on the iconic Olympic elk, it is not difficult to reason they would be similarly affected, being mammals of a similar weight.</p> <p>The military training in the Marine Sanctuary would do damage to the ocean beaches, the marine animals of the coast, the nesting areas of many of Washington's shorebirds, migrating whales, and the birds that use the Pacific Flyway. The Navy has denied flying over Olympic National Park. This is untrue. Not only is this untrue, it is impossible not to fly these missions over the Park.</p> <p>This degradation of the Olympic Peninsula's environment is unacceptable. For 112 years, Congress and presidents have set aside areas of the Peninsula to protect its valuable environment. Irreparable damage would be caused if the activities are done as stated in the Navy EIS/OEIS Mar 2019 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Training and Testing. Please stop this plan by the Navy. The training has been done elsewhere. It can be done elsewhere. Wild places are not empty places just waiting for an invasion by the military. Our national security must also include environmental security.</p>	<p>discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Kerlin-1	<p>1. The DEIS does not give adequate review of other sites outside of the Pacific Northwest. At least five other sites should be analyzed in order to find lesser impact on air quality, noise level, and danger to animals. Warfare training already occurs in Nevada and Idaho. Not enough consideration is given to those sites.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>2. The data on the level of growler noise is inaccurately measured and therefore its effects are not properly assessed. Averaging the growler noise does not provide true evidence of the noise impact.</p> <p>The Draft uses A-weighted noise levels as a basis for determining the geographical envelope of project impacts as well as the potential for harm. This weighting method is based on the sensitivity of human hearing in air. It is inaccurate to apply the same negative weighting factor to those animals that have greater sensitivity of hearing than humans. In terms of noise impacts on wildlife, then, the Draft underestimates effective levels of exposure.</p>	<p>Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>For potential wildlife impacts, A-weighted sound levels are used as an indicator. The wildlife population underneath and around the Olympic MOA have been exposed to military aircraft noise for an extended period. The proposed action does not represent new noise exposure events to the wildlife.</p>
Keyes-1	<p>The proposed sonar testing will dramatically impact the already fragile population of orcas in a very negative way.</p> <p>Use your conscience and listen to the scientific community when they say this will harm the orcas.</p> <p>We must protect this delicate ecosystem, please do your part by withdrawing the proposed plan to do sonar testing.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Khan-1	Let them live in peace!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Kiersnowski-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar testing, which has proven to cause harm to marine animals!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Killough-1	The sonar practices are dangerous and disturbing to the critically endangered Southern Resident Orcas and all Salish Sea marine inhabitants. Please do not allow them! We are not the only ones on this planet. The oceans are not ours along. Thank you for listening!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kim-1	I am COMPLETELY AGAINST sonar testing program. There is too much marine biodiversity at risk. There is no justification and no dire need for the navy to do such testing. We DEPEND on all of the animals in the ocean, their relationship with one another and their survival. Please do not continue with this - for the sake of our future.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kimberlin-1	I'm completely and totally against sonar testing in the Salish Sea and Puget Sound. Also, anywhere else where there are known inhabitants of large populations of marine mammals who depend on their hearing and echolocation for survival. This includes but is not limited to the Southern Resident Killer Whales. They are already suffering from lack of food and habitat pollution, the Navy has no right to add noise pollution to their list of battles they must fight to survive as a result of human callousness and greed. Find another way to test your sonar or go farther out to sea where you are less likely to permanently cripple an entire population of endangered Cetaceans who we depend on for things like tourism and ecosystem stability. Thank you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kimmell-1	Stop this barbaric practice!!! Have a heart and stop hurting marine life!	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
King J-1	No new jets or flights! The growlers are noise pollution and disrupt not only humans but pets, birds and wildlife. We may have to put up with the current state but to propose such an increase is both ridiculous and unnecessary.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
King Ma-1	I am 100 percent in opposition against Navy Sonar in the Salish Sea!!!!!!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
King Mi-1	Life is water. Water needs to be healthy. We can't achieve health without changing that which we know is damage. Our oceans need us and without our healthy oceans there will be no US! We need to do better. We are intelligent and now aware of the damage humanity is causing! Change starts with little steps! There has got to be a better way. We have got to be better than this!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kinkead-1	I choose to live off the grid near wilderness territory after years in Tacoma near McChord AFB where jet noise was daily. I understand the need for Navy training, to a point. When I moved to Forks twenty years ago, jet noise was non-existent. Then the Prowlers arrived, which I never heard in ONP. But now the Growlers. Not only do the flights over Forks wake me from sleep, they agitate my dog and cause me stress. Two years ago I started attending Navy meetings to voice my concerns, and have been dismayed by the lack of response. So I have done my research.	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Kinkead-2	Navy Needs to Conduct Actual Scattergram Noise Monitoring: Since 2010, no noise monitoring has been conducted over Forks, Olympic National Park and the Marine Sanctuary. Three readings at the mouth of the Bogachiel and Hoh Rivers and at Lake Ozette were done in 2010. Estimations abound in 2016 but no actual readings have been collected using modern monitors, and no readings at upper elevations such as backpackers experience (I am one). Averages are not acceptable since a 105 decibel reading (yes, over Forks!) is canceled out by 60 decibel. The Navy needs to monitor what we citizens hear on a daily basis and accurately measure readings throughout your Military Training Areas.	<p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Kinkead-3	<p>Protect Wilderness, National Parks and Natural Sanctuaries from Jet Noise: The Navy can go elsewhere to train. The people and creatures who need quiet to thrive have rights too. The sounds of Growlers are assaultive, war-like in a designated Quiet Zone where birds, normal conversations and peaceful solitude are shattered. Even the walls/floors of my house on the river are shaken by the Growler jets. Tourists who are our main source of income are leaving. Protect the Hoh Rainforest, Hurricane Ridge and Lake Crescent from training airspace.</p> <p>Know the Reality: Even Navy pilots admit to flying below the 6000' baseline when practicing maneuvers. If you monitor, you will know this. I have personally seen whale ears damaged by long distance sound waves. What recourse do they have? Or any of our domesticated animals? The Navy had no collected data on collateral damage to animals or people. Many war veterans live in the Forks-Quinault region fighting PTSD. No data has been collected from them by the Navy. Respond to those of us who complain on the Jet Noise Hotline so we know our voices are heard. According to Navy pilots, additional jets means more planes in each squadron, so the noise of 2-3 Growlers will be intensified by the planned 4-6 jets in each squadron's wave. How much longer will the reverberations last? The Navy has no documentation on this. Use other designated military training areas; there was no Growler action when I visited Mountain Home, ID and Nevada this Fall.</p> <p>Requested Actions: 1. Outfit backpackers, trail workers and ordinary citizens with Sound Monitoring Devices and look at what we hear. Or, use updated Navy monitoring systems and record/report ALL the data, not just averages. 2. Protect the Hoh Rain Forest and the heart of Olympic National Park,</p>	<p>See responses to Kinkead-1 and Kinkead-2 above.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>some of the quietest places in the lower 48 states, from all jet noise. Choose other airspace for practice and for getting into/out of position. Develop a "Quiet Park Alternative Flight Path and Practice area."</p> <p>3. Listen and respond to the ordinary citizens who work and live in your flight paths. We chose quiet and wilderness. The Navy has invaded us. The Growlers have invaded our country. Wilderness and quiet is a precious commodity, necessary for survival in our modern world. Acknowledge that we on the Olympic Peninsula are under attack. Bring your war elsewhere. Give us some peace again.</p>	
Kinsella-1	<p>My husband, Richard Goldstein and I support a significant decrease in training exercises along our shorelines. Exercises far from shore are possible but have not been studied. Why not?</p> <p>Our shorelines are important for birds, fish(think decreasing fish stocks), marine mammals (already Orca, Grey whales are dying), other wildlife and communities. It is an imperative to protect these vulnerable populations by reducing the harm these exercises pose along our shoreline. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Marine Sanctuary, State Parks and other sensitive areas could be avoid. These areas were created to preserve them for people, creatures, life forms living there not military exercises! They can be avoid if the Defense Department would consider other alternatives. Be a good neighbor as I experienced growing up in a Navy family and my husband a Vietnam Vet. Thank you. Sincerely Helen Kinsella MD and Richard Goldstein MD</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft and ships are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Kirby-1	<p>Cannot for one minute even begin to understand how this has been allowed to happen. What the hell is wrong with humanity to do something so destructive and cruel.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Kirkendale-1	<p>Please do not test sonar or do anything sonar related near our SRKW's!!! They are critically endangered.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kirk-Rudeen-1	<p>The only acceptable EIS alternative is the No Action Alternative. Alternatives 1 and 2 for conducting military warfare training over and around the Olympic Peninsula would cause unacceptable and unnecessary harm to wildlife and ecosystems in the Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other tribal, public and private lands managed for long-term ecological sustainability. The effects on people and communities would also be unacceptable.</p> <p>This proposal must be considered in light of the recent global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the U.N. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. <a href="https://www.ipbes.net/news/ipbes-global-assessment-summary-policy-makers-pdf">https://www.ipbes.net/news/ipbes-global-assessment-summary-policy-makers-pdf</a></p> <p>According to the report, “the overwhelming evidence of the IPBES Global Assessment, from a wide range of different fields of knowledge, presents an ominous picture. The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.” Proposed flight frequencies and associated noise levels would negatively impact wildlife in well-documented ways. This ecologically-rich portion of Washington State should not bear the primary burden of the Navy Growler warfare training program.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Kirschner-1	<p>DO NOT ALLOW GROWLER JETS TO FLY OVER THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA. Much of this area is the Olympic National Park, a pristine nature preserve. More than 3 million persons visit this park each year. It was set aside to protect unique plant and animal species both on and off shore. The area around the park contains numerous state parks and is well populated.</p> <p>I value the US Military and all it does for us, but this proposal is stupid, ignorant and abhorrent.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA’s designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA’s designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Kitching-1	<p>I have no doubt that our fighter jets, the Growlers, are important to our national security. I also do not doubt that there are strategic reasons for the Navy’s desire to have them remain where they are. I do doubt that there is no other reasonable way to protect our national security than to destroy the “peace,” the quiet—intrinsic to the beauty—of what is left of our wild places, in particular the Olympic National</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Park/Forest/Wilderness/National Marine Sanctuary area considered by many to be the only “quiet” place left in our country.</p> <p>For me, it is heartbreaking to hear the Growlers heedlessly destroying the “peace” they were created to protect. This “peace” is not the abstract and never attainable “World Peace” that is bandied about by politicians, but the actual “peace,” the quiet, of one of the last, largest and quietest designated wilderness areas in our country. I say “heedlessly” because, having reviewed much of what the Navy has submitted to justify this destruction, it looks to me that most of the Navy’s justification amounts to the convenience of itself and its personnel at the expense of the rest of us who—also--“make their homes” here. Although I appreciate the value of infrastructure, it is not the only value of importance to what makes our country worth living in, much less worth dying for.</p> <p>I grew up in a military (Air Force) family and have known many in all branches of our military. It is my opinion that the military draws and nurtures some of the “best and the brightest,” the most courageous (the warriors and their families) of our country—those whose sense of duty is intrinsic to their being and their survival on the world’s battlefields. As I see it, our warriors, their families, are the soul of our people—tasked with the extraordinarily demanding job of protecting our people and our beautiful country, often with their lives and/or limbs. As I recall, the sign outside at least one of the military bases we were stationed at stated “Peace is Our Profession.”</p> <p>Of course, there is “Peace,” and there is “peace.” Although I would wish that we could “give Peace a chance,” history teaches otherwise. I believe that we will always need our warriors and they should of course be provided with the best technology and training that can be had within the constraints of our democracy. It also seems to me that of all the people in our country, it would be our warriors--who face the horrific sounds and terror of war--who would most understand the need for the “peace” that can be found in the wild, the National Parks and wilderness areas of our country. Is such “peace” not the “peace” we all seek, we all need—the “Peace” our warriors and their families--have died and sacrificed for? Is such “peace,” and beauty, not a vital part of what makes this “America the Beautiful?”</p> <p>From what I can discern, most of the Navy’s efforts at ameliorating environmental issues relating to “sound,” revolve around the harmful effects to marine life, particularly mammals, by sonar and other military made noise. Although laudable, these efforts have nothing to do with the</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>pervasive sound of fighter jets—particularly the Growlers, who fly low and whose sound uniquely lingers for many minutes.</p> <p>It is one thing to live in city and hear the jets flying overhead amidst the competing sounds of our civilization—or see and hear the Blue Angels scorching the blue sky during summer Sea Fair celebrations in Seattle. I clearly remember the eerie silence when the jets left our skies immediately after 911. I remember my wife and I standing in a long, winding line through darkened airport hallways, braving the increased security immediately after the jets began flying again. At that time, it felt like a patriotic act to board a jet plane with the fear that all in the line felt after watching the jets hit the Twin Towers. Finally, I remember my wife and I joined in, along with many of our fellow travelers, when someone in the long, waiting line began singing “America the Beautiful.” I remember that I, and others, had tears in our eyes.</p> <p>This beautiful land we call the United States of America is a shared gift, to be passed on to our children and grandchildren. The Navy should consider the words of John Muir: “Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play and pray in. Where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.”</p>	
Klabis-1	<p>A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. □</p> <p>“For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival,” Calambokidis said. □</p> <p>Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy’s calculations. □</p> <p>Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a “behavioral reaction” (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Kleven-2	Marine Mammal Commission comment letter attached in its entirety.	Please see the responses to the Marine Mammal Commission comments.
Kleyn-1	<p>Re: The U.S. Navy's Northwest Training and Testing Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ overseas Environmental Impact Stateent (EIS/OEIS).</p> <p>I am writing to express concern about the impact that present and future military overflights of Olympic National Park and the Olympic National Forest will have on wildlife and people in the area. In the EIS/ OEIS evaluation of the impacts of sound and vibration is based on modeling, not</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA’s designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA’s designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>on actual monitoring of how aircraft noise affects wildlife and park visitors. The Olympic National Park is a World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve. It is famous for its natural quiet. Modeling is a weak form of analysis to use in any circumstance but especially when threatened and endangered species (for example, the Marbled Murrelet, the Spotted Owl and the Tufted Puffin) and a national marine sanctuary are involved. As a resident of Skagit County, I can tell you that the Supplemental EIS/OEIS greatly underestimates the impact of jet noise levels residents and visitors are already experiencing. To suggest that Growler noise is ever equivalent to a whisper is a joke. I was walking a dog in a nearby park when some Growlers flew overhead. Three out-of-state visitors were shocked, asking what they were hearing and why. The thundering, unexpected intrusion into what had been a quiet walk in a lovely park distressed them. I feel the same way at night when I'm awakened from a sound sleep. Please, we do not need more Growler flights. We need far fewer. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Kline-1	<p>Whatever sonar test you are running should not be run if it has any small chance of hurting marine life.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Knipe-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar testing in the Salish sea due to the damage caused to marine mammals. Please find a way to do this without harming wildlife.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Knolle-1	To gain support from the American public for readiness training, the Navy should be conducting training in areas that have already been depleted of marine life by such action and do nothing to in any way harm the ocean environment of the Pacific Northwest. Earn American appreciation; work to clean up the “garbage patch” which the Navy helped to create along with all of us. I live by the sea, my husband was in the Navy. I see the wildlife is being destroyed. Cleaning the garbage patch, training in “ocean deserts” as described by Jacques Cousteau, is good P.R. (Public relations)	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft and ships are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Knox-1	Please don’t proceed with the navy sonar testing. It will have devastating effects on marine life. The sound is that intense and loud marine mammals will swim hundreds of miles and deeper to get away. Because they are swimming faster and deeper they end up with nitrogen bubbles in their blood this causes decompression sickness. Also the nitrogen damages their internal organs. The sonar noise will also causes mass stranding of whales and dolphins due to it been so unbearable. Even far away the noise effects them from feeding and migration as they depend on echo location.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Koch-1	I am writing in support of the orcas and all other marine mammals and species living in the Salish sea that will be harmed by any further and /or increased under water testing by the military. The Salish sea and the life in these waters are already under stress and are endangered from pollution, ship traffic, sonar activity, lack of food ( Chinook salmon) etc and need all of our help to heal and survive. We cannot survive on the planet without the diversity of species that form the ECOSYSTEM we depend upon. By reducing human activities in the Salish sea and by reducing our impact on the earth, reducing pollutants, not using single use anything and restoring natural habitats including reducing sound pollution, and by acting	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy’s ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Navy’s Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li><li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li></ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>in ways that are compassionate rather than violent, we can save life on earth.</p> <p>Please consider this request and let's all act together in ways that will help restore the earth to health and that measures our human activities that can harm any other living being.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kolff C-1	<p>Thanks you for your service in the armed forces! Having a prepared military is important.</p> <p>HOWEVER, I refuse to believe that your current and planned activities over or near the areas of the Olympic National Park can not be carried out elsewhere. You have not stated adequately why other places would not work for your Growler flights. The noise makes peaceful enjoyment of a heavily used public area virtually impossible. We are supposed to be living in a democracy, where the public has a say, and I doubt there are many who are urging you on. Please reconsider you plans.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Kolff H-1	<p>I have lived in the Seattle area for 25 years and in Port Townsend for 22 years. The main reason our family moved here was for the surrounding wilderness and beauty. Now, when I am working outside in my garden, I have to stop and go inside and close all my windows and doors to avoid the roar of the aircraft taking off and landing at OLF. When I go to the Olympic National Park or the coast, I have to brace myself, plug my ears and stop in order to survive the noise of the Navy jets flying overhead. The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals (such as our endangered orcas), other wildlife and communities.</p> <p>There has been no evaluation for other locations, such as Mountain Home in Idaho, which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas could be avoided if that were a priority for the Department of Defense.</p> <p>PLEASE do not fly over the Olympics and the coast since this is a rare and</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	precious remnant of wilderness on our beleaguered planet. Thank you, Helen Kolff	
Koons-1	<p>The U.S. Navy's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities conducted within the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) study area is of great concern.</p> <p>National Parks:</p> <p>As an advocate for the National Park system I object to the use of Olympic National Park and North Cascades National Park as warfare training grounds. The severe impact of jet noise to Olympic National Park and North Cascades National Park is unacceptable.</p> <p>*The Navy needs to monitor in the Parks to get real data on how loud the jets are and how often visitors see them. The Navy is relying on models, not real noise measurements, so it could be louder and more extensive than what they say.</p> <p>*The Navy noise modeling understates/underestimates the noise levels from Navy jet flyovers and frequency of park visitors hearing those jets.</p> <p>*Any jet noise in the park should be considered a problem that the Navy needs to mitigate and consider a way to entirely or mostly avoid. The noises from Navy jets do not belong in the parks settings and significantly harm park visitor's experiences. *Olympic National Park is recognized as a World Heritage Site, a world-class natural area, and should not be impaired by avoidable intrusions which degrade those values.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Koons-2	*The Navy needs to consider specific alternatives that would greatly reduce Navy jet noise over the Parks and that would reduce or completely eliminate Navy jet flyovers of Olympic National Park. The fact that such	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	alternatives would not be as convenient for the Navy as what it currently does is not a valid reason for refusing to fully consider such alternatives. Flying over the Parks, especially the parts of the parks not directly on the west coast of the peninsula, is not a military necessity for their training exercises. The Navy has many other airspaces it could fly in.	where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Koons-3	<p>*The draft SEIS only considers impacts in the parts of the Parks that are in the Military Operations Areas (MOAs). But the Navy Jets fly over much larger portions of the Parks that are not in those MOAs and the impacts to those parts of the park should be addressed in the SEIS. The Navy's maps indicate transit flights between the NAS Whidbey Island and the Pacific MOAs flying over Lake Crescent and Hurricane Ridge among other areas within Olympic National Park, all of which are well-visited throughout the year.</p> <p>*North Cascades National Park is also visited throughout the year, with no monitoring by the Navy or accommodations for the frequent flights at low altitude.</p>	In Appendix J, the Navy considered the noise impacts resulting from aircraft transiting into the Olympic MOA.
Koons-4	Marine: I attach the comments submitted by Peter O. Thomas, on April 15, 2019, Executive Director of the Marine Mammal Commission along with its Committee of Scientific Advisors.	Please see the responses to the Marine Mammal Commission comments.
Koons-5	<p>Disturbance of the complex ecosystem, with plans for harassment and mortality takes is simply unacceptable. No warfare operations should occur directly over and in a National Marine Sanctuary. The Sanctuary and other parts of the adjacent ocean are prime habitat for the critically endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales.</p> <p>Elected Officials: Comments submitted to the Navy by Representative Rick Larson, WA 2nd District, in 2018 for accommodations related to warfare training were ignored. Washington State is not yours to ruin without citizens and elected officials' demands being heard and responded to as a basis for reasonable negotiations. Navy managers operating NASWI should not simply ignore the citizens and multiple Washington State government entities that strongly object to the Navy's plans.</p> <p>People &amp; Places: Noise from warfare operations create the following problems for people and places: *Deafening toxic noise hurts adults. *Deafening toxic noise hurts children by interrupting the capacity to concentrate and hinders normal cognitive development.</p>	The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>*Noise impacts tourism. Income from recreation visitors generates clean, healthy income for small and large businesses and tax revenue for Washington's counties and the state.</p> <p>*Real estate values decline in areas severely impacted by noise pollution. The area of the Navy's planned warfare training will harm landowners and small businesses from Whidbey Island to the San Juan Islands and through the Olympic Peninsula. Declining values will impact local governments. Warfare training may have been appropriate when Washington's population was less dense than it is now. The state's popularity, its vibrant economic growth and increasing density no longer make this region a reasonable place to conduct warfare activities as planned by the Navy.</p>	
Kossick-1	<p>In the past 4-5 years we residents of Puget Sound have started to see the effects of pollution and soundwaves on both our area's wildlife and our own health and environment. We use the Sound for food and resources as do all kinds of other animals.</p> <p>We have no idea how far the impacts of decisions 10 years ago will transpire, but we now know it has begun and is worse than we imagined. It takes double the time and effort to retroactively respond.</p> <p>We have to be smarter about how we advance technology while reducing our impact. Our planet and region is dying and we are already behind the 8 ball.</p> <p>The military has to find a way to prepare our troops with less destruction of what they are trying to protect. Otherwise, you're fighting for lost cause. Stand up and fight for your military and country by being responsible patrons and question the decisions being made. There is always a better way.</p> <p>This is our generation's biggest challenge</p> <p>Your children and grandchildren will thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kossow-1	<p>No one in our area is going to go along with your plans to do military operations off our coast. Any attempt to proceed with this plan in our area will be met with more protest and opposition than you can imagine. Stop thinking you can convince us that any disruption of our oceans &amp; its creatures is going to be okay. We will fight with everything we have to protect our oceans. No one supports you here.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Kotulock-1	<p>Please use your power and authority to PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT (and hence, also protect people), rather than DAMAGE IT FURTHER through these proposed exercises.</p> <p>We are at a critical point in climate change and ecosystem / biodiversity collapse and cannot afford to release ANY more toxic compounds or additional harmful acoustics into our environment.</p> <p>Making smart long-term decisions for the sake of a livable planet is the most important thing we can do right now.</p> <p>Please do not to release ANY heavy metals, depleted uranium, toxic chemicals, or harmful acoustics into the Puget Sound (or any oceans) or its surrounding environment.</p>	<p>The Navy does not propose to release heavy metals or depleted uranium into Puget Sound." Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p> <p>The analysis of impacts of the Navy's activities on water quality can be found in Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Kozacik-1	<p>Aircraft sonic booms are on the rise in all National parks. While at Yosemite NP (4-17-2019) three booms shook the valley floor. The Navy will point to the Army: the army will point to the Air Force... around and around...No one will take responsibility.</p> <p>National security is important but this cover will always be used to hide an perpetuate this problem. Navigating around National parks is difficult with the arm forces mission priorities but somewhere there can be a solution.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Kozmann-1	<p>The sonar training damages all marine life, specially the endangered southern resident orcas who are at the edge. Imagine yourself with all this noise disrupting your daily life, compromising your feeding, nursing ... no need to explain in more words about all the damage that is done to marine life. Thank you, best regards</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Kramer-Druzycka-1	This is my voice against the proposed sonar testing by the US navy in the Salish Sea. This is the next risk for the endangered Southern Resident Orcas and a big danger other sea mammals in this region. PLEASE stop these plans!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Krause-1	I stand with many members of my community against the use of any sonar ocean mapping, all associated activities and covert activities carried out by the US Navy in this regard, in waters anywhere. The sea creatures, flora and fauna may not speak on their behalf. My concerns GRAY WHALES The SEIS cites a study done in 2008 and 2010 to claim that there are between 17,000 and 20,000 gray whales on the West Coast. Will the SEIS update information and impacts etc. on the current population of Gray whales? See attached SEIS references in the SEIS are dated from 1984-2014 Will the SEIS address the 70+ whale deaths on the West Coast so far this year, that represent only 10% of the actual loss and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation? How will the SEIS address the Wildlife Emergency just announced by NOAA? <a href="https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/">https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/</a> <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a> A recent Study published in January 2019 documents the severe effect sonar has on whales. <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a> Scientific studies have shown, without a doubt, that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, 'listening' is as important as 'seeing' is for humans, as they live in a world of water and sound. Noise pollution threatens whale and dolphin populations, interrupting their normal behavior, driving them away from areas important to their survival and at worst injuring or sometimes even causing the deaths of some whales and dolphins. 3.4-107 of the SEIS states that Gray whales in Baja abandoned an historical	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.  The Navy uses the most current marine mammal population data available from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The 2008 and 2010 references cited in the comment were not used by the Navy to determine current populations.  The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>breeding ground due to an increase in noise and shipping activity. Until NOAA's study of the die off on the Gray Whales is complete shouldn't any disruption of the Ocean by Sonar and Explosive activity should be halted?</p> <p>The SEIS at 3.4-135 acknowledges that Gray whale are slow moving and sometimes exhibit "snorkeling activity," they surface quietly and exhale without of any visible blow.</p> <p>The Navy claims they have lookouts watching for whales before the use of sonar and explosives and are "very unlikely" to have their feeding and migration impacted by the Navy's activities.</p> <p>How does the SEIS take into account this "snorkeling" and fog and rough seas in watching for whales?</p> <p>The SEIS details the presence of gray whales in six of the NWTT areas for short periods and claims that the gray whales have "low risk" of being impacted. How much risk is acceptable given NOAA's Wildlife Emergency. The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that "military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor". At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that "for the most part," this material will be incidentally ingested by bottom feeders. Gray Whales are bottom feeders. Given the already stressed gray whale population should the SEIS take this into account?</p> <p><a href="https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/">https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/</a></p> <p>COMMON MURRES</p> <p>We here on the Coast are in the middle of a major die off of the Common Murres. <a href="https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murres-underway-along-the-mendocino-coast/?fbclid=IwAR1jCzAbxz1OsGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVP5f7_uo6vlpJF7Dhvc4A7TSgnI9HVXk">https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murres-underway-along-the-mendocino-coast/?fbclid=IwAR1jCzAbxz1OsGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVP5f7_uo6vlpJF7Dhvc4A7TSgnI9HVXk</a></p> <p>The SEIS at 3.6.15 states that the Common Murres were deterred from gillnets by acoustic transmitters. What effect will the solar and explosive activities Stressors outlined in the SEIS have on the Common Murres?</p> <p>Will the SEIS address the major die off of the Common Murres and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation?</p> <p>KELP</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Does the SEIS address the loss of the kelp forests and abalone and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS that will exacerbate this situation?</p> <p>I see with my own eyes that the Kelp forests are gone so are the abalone.  <a href="https://www.cencoos.org/about/news/2016/warm-waters-impact-california-kelp-forests">https://www.cencoos.org/about/news/2016/warm-waters-impact-california-kelp-forests</a>  <a href="https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Sport-Fishing">https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Sport-Fishing</a>            Demanding the US Navy stop any further action and cancel these sonar ocean mapping projects. They hurt and do not help!</p>	
Kruglyanskay a-1	<p>Dear MWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager,</p> <p>I am writing with much concern for the proposed increase in sonar testing off the Mendocino Coast, CA.</p> <p>First off, I am most concerned for those who will be recreational diving off our coast, We have an active diving community and our tourism and lives are based off this access for both divers and surfers who are in the water. WHAT STUDIES HAVE BEEN DONE TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE WATER BOTH FOR RECREATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, WHICH IS ALL TOO COMMON OFF THESE SHORES?</p> <p>Currently we have an active community of divers and scientists working to help fend off the collapse of our ecosystems here on the coast. We are witnessing the decline of our ecosystems and the marine life that is dependent on it</p> <p>WHAT GUARANTEES CAN YOU ASSURE US OF THAT OUR ECOSYSTEMS WILL NOT BE FURTHER DAMAGED WITH YOUR TESTING?</p> <p>Our local business and tourism is dependent on the survival of these fragile ecosystems.</p> <p>WHAT COMPENSATION CAN WE EXPECT WHEN WE SEE THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF YOUR TESTING AND PRESENCE ON OUR COASTLINE TO OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY?</p> <p>Our Board of Supervisors for the County of Mendocino have submitted their concerns for our Marine Ecosystems, please reply to those as well.</p> <p>Our inter tribal council of this county has been outspoken against this proposition</p> <p>I request that you take their practices, lifestyle and cultural survival into account in your proposition.</p> <p>The EIS has not taken the tribes of the Mendocino coast into account, I require that this be considered in your scientific data/            HOW CAN YOU REIMBURSE THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES FOR THEIR LOSS OF CULTURAL RESOURCES FROM THE STRESSORS OF YOUR TESTING?</p>	<p>The Navy is not proposing to increase sonar use off the Mendocino coast. The analysis of potential impacts described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>I have many concerns and am aware that NOAA just declared an emergency for the most recent whale die-offs, WHAT SCIENCE HAVE YOU DONE TO TAKE THIS NEW DECLARATION AND THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT INTO ACCOUNT?</p> <p>Please understand that these are not just my personal concerns but the concerns of the community around me of tribal communities, government, tourist industries and business members, diving and other oceanic recreational communities, fishing industry, and scientists.</p>	
Krug-von Vacano M-1	<p>We have to fully protect the resident orcas. I have a 13 year old daughter who can't understand, why we treat our environment the way we do. She is crying a lot in the evenings, because she feels so helpless. For her and for all the Kids in our world, I want to show that we can change the world, that we can protect what we love.</p> <p>And my daughter taught me, from a project she did about whales in school, that researchers think that whales could communicate thousands of kilometers, through all the Seven oceans, in times when the sea still was silent.</p> <p>Please keep the sea a bit more quiet again.</p> <p>Thank you for listening!</p> <p>With love from Germany!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Krumboltz-1	<p>Honorable Sirs/Madames:</p> <p>I hope you will take in to account how whales, dolphins and other marine life are adversely impacted by the use of underwater sonar, leading to injury and even death. Our resident Orca whales are already stressed. Certainly there are other ways to test your equipment. Here is one of many articles on the topic: <a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/?redirect=1">https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/?redirect=1</a></p> <p>I cannot stress how important this is to the people of the Northwest.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Krummenacher-1	<p>Please do not test sonar in the Salish Sea. The critically endangered Orcas and other marine life are in harms way during these tests.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Krumpe-1	To " the Untied States Navy., I would like to Thank you all for being in the North West Os Washington State Keeping we the people of the Untied States safe!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Again Thank you for all of your work...	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.
Kryla-1	No sonar testing! Protect our orcas!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kubin-1	Please stop harming whales, dolphins, fish and larval development, stop noice input! Thank you.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kuc-1	Marine animals are suffering. Stop the tests before irreversible damage is done!!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kuehne-01	Attached are the substantive comments of Lauren Kuehne, an ecologist and research scientist within the University of Washington's College of the Environment. A supplemental version of these comments were also submitted (with all attachments except the file titled L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019, which is attached to this online comment) via certified US Postal Service Mail, postmarked on June 12th, 2019. Please include the materials from	The commenting feature on the project website, while not a NEPA requirement, was added by the Navy to further facilitate commenting by the public. The Navy placed certain limitations on comments (5,000 characters of text and 1 MB limit for file attachments), to allow the Navy to continue supporting this feature in a cost-effective manner. Over 1,800 comments were received on this project through website commenting and attachments,

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>both my online and hard copy submissions as my complete public comment. It was necessary to submit the supplemental materials via hard copy (with substantial added personal costs of time and money) only because of the 1 MB file upload limit is too restrictive to allow inclusion of the evidence and scientific sources of information supporting my public comment and that should be considered in the DSEIS. The 1 MB file limit causes unnecessary burden for those participating in the public comment process and should be expanded.</p> <p>Lauren Kuehne Research Scientist University of Washington</p> <p>Background to comments: Many of my comments on the DSEIS focus on the Noise Modeling Analysis, to which the year-long soundscape monitoring study that I conducted is directly related. I have attached a Final Report (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019) from those data, which are also being prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. This report represents a large portion of the information that is available from the study that I conducted in 2017- 2018, but there are still many analyses that could be done from these data to provide context for the DSEIS. I requested an extension of the public comment period from the Navy on May 28, 2019 for this purpose (request letter attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments). Although I received a rather cryptic reply about 10 days later requesting my research “methods and results”, to which I provided a copy of the Initial Summary of Findings (email exchange attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments), I have to date received no answer with respect to my request for an extension of the public comment period. As a result, my comments on the DSEIS and Noise Modeling Analysis are less complete than would be possible if the extension had been granted to conduct and finalize additional analyses. Nonetheless, the results of my study – along with other research - document substantial inadequacies and deficiencies in the Noise Modeling Analysis that prevent any practical assessment of noise impacts as they are experienced by people and wildlife. This, in turn, makes it impossible to evaluate impacts and potential detriment to valued cultural and socioeconomic resources. I have grouped my comments under two broad categories (I. Evaluating Impacts from Noise Metrics, and II. Modeling Deficiencies) with 6 sub-headings.</p>	<p>with very few affected by this limit. The Navy will review this file size limitation for future projects.</p> <p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p>
Kuehne-02	<p>I. Inability to Evaluate Impacts from Noise Metrics a. Inadequacy in providing metrics that allow evaluation of impact on</p>	<p>Considering the natural soundscape of a National Park underneath a military operating area is a challenge. However, the currently agreed upon cumulative</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>residents and visitors</p> <p>The Noise Modeling Analysis creates only two acoustic metrics with which impacts on people can be evaluated. The first of these is the Ldn or average of the sound exposure over an “average” 24-hour period (the average potentially being obtained over a very long period such as an entire year) with a penalty for nighttime noise. The Ldn can provide some very basic assessment of average noise levels over a time period, but is nearly useless as an indicator of noise impacts because it bears no relationship whatsoever to noise as experienced by people. This is particularly true when the flight events bear more resemblance to periodic, impulsive events as opposed to more consistent levels of noise (e.g., in areas surrounding a commercial airport). Furthermore, the Ldn is highly inappropriate in wilderness areas, because the noise impacts will be offset by a quiet ambient sound level; in this way, the very noise impacts that will be perceived as more intrusive (Mace et al. 2004, attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments) will be measured as less intrusive.</p> <p>The only other metric provided is a duration and probability of experiencing the most extreme events (the Lmax), which will be limited to if a person happens to be directly under a flight event that is flying at the absolute lowest altitude. This probability is further averaged across the entire geographic space of the MOAs (Table J-13). Based on the metrics in the Noise Modeling Analysis, impact on people is available to be assessed as either a function of a Ldn metric that is never actually experienced (nor readily monitored due to perpetually confounding influences on sound pressure levels like weather), or as the likelihood of happening to experience the absolute maximum noise level. No other impacts on people can be assessed with these two metrics, and the inadequacy of using these to evaluate impact of military overflight events on residents and visitors cannot be overstated.</p> <p>People do not experience noise from aircraft events as a 24-hour average with a 10dB penalty at night. People experience noise exposure as a function of frequency of events (i.e., number of disruptions), duration (length of time of exposure), loudness (i.e., dB or dB(A)), and the cumulative exposure that is a function of these interacting factors. People also experience these factors more acutely depending on the expected levels and frequency of noise, particularly in wilderness areas (Mace et al. 2004). There are numerous acoustic metrics that facilitate assessment of impacts on human health and well-being, many of which are mentioned in the DSEIS (e.g., percent time audible, exceedance or time above certain dB</p>	<p>metric is Ldn, with Lmax as a supplemental metric. Noise modeling for SUA operations prohibit the calculation of Time Audible, which is the only metric identified in the comment and supporting report.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>or dB(A) thresholds), and no one metric allows evaluation of all impacts. At a minimum, the Noise Modeling Analysis should produce metrics that related to known levels of noise disturbance resulting in impacts on human health (Smith and Pijanowski 2014, Fox and Morris 2017, attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments). These health impacts include impairments in concentration, memory, cognition, and mental health status when noise levels reach 40 - 55 dB(A) and serious cardiovascular health effects of hypertension, stroke, and risk of ischemic heart disease associated with levels above 55 dB(A) (Smith and Pijanowski 2014, Basner et al. 2017, attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments). Number of overflight events and duration of time above these exceedance thresholds would be much better indicators of the impacts on people, particularly residents that will experience more consistent exposures to overflights.</p> <p>For assessing impact on visitors to wilderness areas, metrics of percent time audible (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019; also described in Appendix J) and exceedance thresholds (described on p. J-27 in the Noise Modeling Analysis) are good indicators of the extent to which visitors in wilderness areas are likely to be impacted. To these metrics, I would also add the utility of the number of flight events (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019) as an indicator of the number of disruptive events a person in a location is likely to experience. This metric allows for an estimate of the number of potential disturbance or interruptive events a person may experience while doing activities like recreating, working, learning, sleeping, etc.</p>	
Kuehne-03	<p>b. Failure to provide noise metrics that allow evaluation of impacts on wildlife</p> <p>The inadequacy of the two metrics in the Noise Modeling Analysis described above for people is compounded when trying to assess impacts of noise disturbance from military overflights on wildlife. For one thing, the dB(A) scale used in the Noise Modeling Analysis emphasizes the 1-4 kHz frequencies that human ears interpret most readily, and deemphasizes acoustic information below 1 kHz. Despite an overall paucity of information related to noise disturbance impacts on wildlife (Shannon et al. 2016, attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments), many species of wildlife are known to detect and respond to sounds below 1 kHz (i.e., “infrasound”, Beason 2004, attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments). In fact, some species of birds are highly sensitive to noise in this range and have been shown to exhibit “behavioral and physiological</p>	<p>For potential wildlife impacts, A-weighted sound levels are used as an indicator. The wildlife population underneath and around the Olympic MOA have been exposed to military aircraft noise for an extended period. The proposed action does not represent new noise exposure events to the wildlife. Also, the statement that noise studies on wildlife are minimal ignores the numerous studies that the DoD has sponsored in the past three decades. Many of these studies were included in the analysis of impacts to birds found in Section 3.6.2.1.4 (Impacts from Aircraft Noise) of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, the Navy has consulted with the USFWS regarding the potential of proposed Navy activities to impact ESA-listed species in the Study Area.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>responses to these low frequencies” (Beason 2004). Critical components of acoustic metrics with relevance for wildlife include time interval, duration, frequency components, noise level or sound pressure levels, acuteness or how acutely events are perceived, and contrast with background or ambient sound levels (McKenna et al. 2016, Gill et al. 2014, attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments). These combined acoustic metrics allow for assessment of a diverse range of potential impacts of noise on wildlife, which can include damage to auditory organs and receptors due to excessive or cumulative exposure to noise, masking of critical animal communication systems, and disturbance during crucial activities such as feeding or protecting young (Shannon et al. 2016, McKenna et al. 2016, Beason 2004).</p> <p>For this reason, the Noise Modeling Analysis at a minimum needs to include metrics that allow assessment of acoustic disturbance relevant to specific species (i.e., species listed under the Endangered Species Act, species with substantial cultural or socio-economic significance) and/or commercially, culturally or socially important species groups (e.g., owls, ungulates, salmon). For the Olympic Peninsula, these include ESA-listed marbled murrelet, northern spotted-owl, orca or killer whales, bull trout, Chinook and sockeye salmon (Figure 8, L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019). Other commercially and culturally important species-groups include salmon, grey whales, owls, Olympic marmot, Roosevelt elk, and numerous bird species that live and migrate through the Olympic Peninsula region. Residents and visitors alike highly value the wildlife experiences in the region, making the impacts on wildlife critical to assess adequately not only for the impacts on wildlife populations per se, but for their corresponding implications for socio-economic activities related to healthy wildlife populations (e.g., impacts on tourist activities like birding or fishing).</p>	
Kuehne-04	<p>c. Failure to provide noise metrics that allow evaluation of impact on socioeconomic resources</p> <p>Basically, people enjoy living in and visiting quiet places, and this experience is degraded by noise (Mace et al. 2004). The impacts of noise on property values have been well established and measured in multiple settings, and reviewed previously (e.g., Navrud 2004, attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments). In recreational areas, noise intrusion has been shown to affect enjoyment to the extent that the impact can be economically measured (Merchan et al. 2014, attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments). In wilderness areas, the effects of noise disturbance are experienced more profoundly precisely because of the</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA).</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic MOA, it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>expectation of quiet (Mace et al. 2004). All of these effects are already being experienced and almost certain to increase in the future for residents and visitors of the Olympic Peninsula region and the Olympic National Park under the proposed increases in aircraft activity in the DSEIS. Valued recreational activities that are highly dependent on quiet such as camping, birdwatching, fishing, and backpacking are all compromised by noise. Residents that have reasonable expectations of quiet based on distance from urban areas are already exposed to consistently high percent time audible for military aircraft (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2016). Over time, accumulated annoyance of residents and visitors may well lead to losses in economic opportunities associated with reduced tourism and business/property values.</p> <p>However, as currently presented in the DSEIS, there is no way that these impacts (largely contained in Section 3.12.3.2.1.1) can currently be evaluated using the metrics presented in the Noise Modeling Analysis. As noted in my comment Sections I(a) and I(b), the lack of metrics that are relevant to assess effects on people's health, well-being, and enjoyment allows no path to describe the impacts on resulting socio-economic resources such as lifestyle, tourism, and cultural values. As demonstrated below in comment Section II, Modeling Deficiencies do not capture the geographic and temporal extent of current impacts.</p> <p>Collectively, these deficiencies preclude adequate evaluation of socio-economic consequences, which are often sweepingly described in DSEIS Section 3.12.3.2.1.1. For example, Section 3.12.3.2.1.1 states "While airborne acoustics from aircraft overflights are likely to be heard and may disturb some visitors to the national park, economic indicators representing tourism and recreational activities in the region, including in the national park, have been trending upwards in recent years and are projected to continue to increase". It does not follow that because tourism has been on an upswing for a while that the trend cannot be interrupted or terminated due to excessive noise or disturbance. Rather, visitors may be drawn to a landscape because it is traditionally or reportedly quiet, and leave irritated. Similarly, Section 3.12.3.2.1.1 states, "Although noise from overflights during transit could be higher than average background noise levels in the national park, national forest, and wilderness areas, on average they would not be substantially above the range of commonly heard natural sounds in the national park or nearby areas". This assessment of "impact" completely ignores that people distinguish qualities and characteristics of natural and human sounds, particularly in wilderness areas (Mace et al. 2004). One</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to approximately one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol> <p>The potential impacts to socioeconomic resources was analyzed in Section 3.12.3.2 (Airborne Acoustics). The results of that analysis include in part, "Considering that trends in economic indicators have historically increased and are projected to continue to increase, disturbances from airborne acoustics on the Olympic Peninsula are expected to have a negligible impact on socioeconomic resources in the Study Area."</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	further example is the statement “From 2015 through 2017, the average annual number of Navy EA-18G aircraft transits to and from the Olympic MOAs was 2,224. Under Alternative 1, EA-18G transits to and from the Olympic MOAs are proposed to increase by 300 per year. This proposed increase equates to, on average, less than one additional transit per day over a calendar year”. The impact of the increased transit flights (which are of negligible duration or “NA” in Appendix J Table J-7) is assessed in this fairly straightforward way that includes frequency of events and duration. However, comparable assessment is missing for the 62% proposed increase in electronic warfare training (with an average duration of 90 minutes/aircraft). Rather than pull apart 3.12.3.2.1.1 line by line, I will conclude this section by reiterating that lack of relevant noise metrics for people and wildlife can only result in weak and inconsequential assessments of impact on socioeconomic resources.	
Kuehne-05	II. Modeling Deficiencies a. Incomplete description of aircraft engine variant used in modeling The Noise Modeling Analysis specifies that the “loudest available variants” of the F-15 and P-8A aircraft were used for noise modeling, but does not specify which engine variant is used for the EA-18G. Since the proposed increases in Aircraft/Year for the EA-18G comprise 56% of all proposed increases for the combined Olympic A&B and W-237 A&B regions, and 98% of the proposed increases for the Olympic A&B (where most of the noise impacts are experienced) (Tables J-3 to J-10, Appendix J), this represents a critical omission. The “enhanced” F414-GE-400 engine for the EA-18G is reportedly capable of twice the horsepower and 18% greater thrust (see news articles attached in the mailed hard copy of these comments regarding notification of the contract to General Electric for enhanced F414-GE-400 engines). The Noise Modeling Analysis should be based on this louder variant, unless the Navy can establish that enhanced engines will not be used in the EA-18G fleet at NASWI.	The engines used for the noise model were the F414-GE-400 engines, which are the current engines installed in the F/A-18E/F and EA-18G aircraft. Appendix J has been revised to include the engine type modeled for the EA-18G aircraft. The GE F414-400 enhanced engine is currently only in a research phase for the Navy, and is not installed in any aircraft, nor are there plans to purchase or install it. If this engine were to be introduced to the fleet of F/A-18E/F and EA-18G aircraft, the Navy would measure the noise emissions from this new engine.
Kuehne-06	b. Inappropriate spatial and temporal averaging of noise impacts The Noise Modeling Analysis using the software program NoiseMap did not actually produce any noise maps, which would create noise impact contours that could be evaluated spatially. As a result, the only spatial information that is provided in Appendix J is limited to the model inputs that state “the aircraft events are uniformly distributed throughout the SUA within the 3 NM offset with a diminishing distribution from the offset to the SUA boundary”. As documented in (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019), based on year-long monitoring at three locations within or just	DoD’s position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses <sup>1</sup> . The following text <sup>2</sup> states DoD’s position regarding the preference for modeling:  5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>adjacent to the MOAs, noise impacts may be correlated but are not equally experienced across locations (Table 1, Figure 7), indicating that there are “hotspots” where activity is concentrated. This may be due to operational features and constraints (e.g., Entry/Exit points, positions of electronic warfare transmitters, which are limited to specific locations) that results in common or emphasized flight paths. Given that available evidence indicates unevenness of impacts across the MOAs, the Navy should create actual noise maps that incorporate flight paths and emphasized routes. The Navy should also conduct noise monitoring across a broad geographic range both within and outside of the MOAs to evaluate spatial concentration of noise impacts. Results from this type of monitoring could be used to help mitigate realized impacts and refine the noise modeling to account for emphasized flight paths.</p> <p>A second key result from (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019) is that impacts of military aircraft are strongly concentrated between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM. The Noise Modeling Analysis reduces this effect by only considering and reporting on “daytime” as the very large range between 7 AM and 10 PM, during which period 94-99% of the EA-18G Aircraft/Year are reportedly active (Appendix J Table J-3). One reason for delineating daytime in this way is made clear for the purposes of adding a 10dB penalty to nighttime events and calculating a 24-hr DNL. However, this very limited division between daytime and nighttime obscures the fact that nearly ¾ (74%) of military flights were documented between 9AM and 5PM, with the majority of the remainder (19%) documented between 5PM and 10PM (leaving 5% between 10PM-7AM, and 2% between 7AM – 9AM). This results in an intense temporal concentration of all noise impacts, which show strong peaks in the middle of the day (Figure 6, L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019), where percent time audible in some location-date-hours exceeded 80%. Given that the Proposed Training Missions for the EA-18G (Appendix J Table J-7) show Aircraft/Year increases on the orders of 13% (Entry/Exit, Air-to-Air) - 62% (Electronic Warfare Close Air Support), but without changes in the Day/Night percentages, it is reasonable to assume that 1) percent time audible will increase by ~13-62% uniformly across current hours, retaining the strong temporal concentration during certain portions of the day and/or 2) more flights will occur in the lesser-utilized hours of 5 PM-10 PM and/or 3) activity will occur on greater numbers of days (i.e., weekends) during the year. The ~13-62% increases in activity will have to be “fit in” somewhere. Regardless of the actual planned scenario, based on patterns from the monitoring data, the current division</p>	<p>conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	into only two daily time periods and use of the 24-hr DNL do not reflect strong temporal concentration of aircraft activity. This makes impossible any real evaluation of impacts of noise on people, wildlife, and socio-economic and cultural resources. Some possibilities for expanding the Noise Modeling Analysis to better reflect temporal concentration include: a) modeling the distribution of noise impacts across each hour of the day (e.g., Figure 6, L. Kuehne, Final Report 11 June 2019), b) conducting on-the-ground monitoring that establishes those distributions across the MOAs, c) modeling and reporting on smaller temporal time periods that correspond to peoples' schedules, such as mornings, school or work periods, evenings, sleeping periods. The latter would need to reflect schedules that are relevant for both residents and visitors (e.g., campers and backpackers) to the area.	
Kuehne-07	c. Incomplete modeling that downplays and disregards impacted areas The modeling and conclusions also imply that noise impacts will not extend beyond the SUA boundary; again, the model inputs "events are uniformly distributed throughout the SUA within the 3 NM offset with a diminishing distribution from the offset to the SUA boundary." is the only information that references the overall acoustic footprint from activities in the MOA. However, as the data in (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019) clearly show, one of the monitored locations in that study that is 1.8 km (1 NM) outside of the MOA boundary experiences an average of 6-14% time audible for military aircraft between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM. These averages were obtained over 40 days of sampling (in four 10-day periods), which means that percent time audible was substantially higher within sampling periods and on specific days. For example, out of the 185 date-hours when monitoring detected military aircraft at this location, 114 (or 62%) exceeded 10% time audible for that hour, and 19/185 date-hours exceeded 50% time audible for that hour. To achieve these consistent noise levels outside of the MOAs boundary despite a 3 NM offset (Appendix J, p. J-24 "The highest terrain beneath the Olympic MOAs is found at the eastern most border of the MOAs, where aircraft presence is unlikely due to the 3 NM offset used by aircrew to avoid accidentally spilling out of the airspace") means that 1) either pilots are consistently in the offset and operating much closer to the boundary than is assumed in the modeling and/or 2) that the acoustic footprint or detection range of Growler jets is at least 4 NM. Anecdotal evidence from people that live in the area around NASWI suggests that – depending on weather conditions – Growler jets are audible at a range of at least 8-9 NM, which is consistent with the	The noise from EA-18G operations are expected to be heard outside of the MOA boundaries, but the received noise levels will be low. The noise modeling conducted for this analysis follows the standard noise modeling tools for assessing noise exposures from current and proposed airspace training operations. These procedures utilize noise level metrics to provide a comparison between the baseline (or no action) and proposed scenarios. This process allows a comparison of the changes in the cumulative noise exposure between (or among) the scenarios. These calculations are based on the operation of the aircraft and estimated over an area of exposure. Audibility, on the other hand, is a complex process that involves a source, a receiver, a background sound spectrum, and localized atmospheric conditions. Although noise models can predict audibility for an individual flight trajectory, no current audibility noise model exists for aircraft operations within an airspace. These operations are dispersed over the entire airspace volume and vary widely from operation to operation. A new section has been added to Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis for the Olympic Military Operations Area) describing audibility of the EA-18G. In this new section, a new table (Table J-17) indicates the lateral distance of audibility for the EA-18G is typically 12-15 NM.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	frequency of events and percent time audible recorded at the Hoh River Trail location (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019). Modeling the noise impacts based on the actual audible range and based on likely frequency of events – including transit or Entry/Exit events - will certainly extend the total acoustic footprint from activity within the MOAs. However, this is the only way in which an actual assessment of the geographic extent and impacts on corresponding socio-economic and cultural resources (e.g., Olympic National Park) can be done. Again, conducting noise monitoring vs. only doing modeling will also allow assessment of realized impacts on the landscape, and ability to mitigate or minimize those impacts by adjusting operations.	
Kuehne-08	<p>Conclusions/Implications:</p> <p>The modeling and metrics presented in the Noise Modeling Analysis in the DSEIS are highly inadequate to evaluate the impact of Growler jets on people living in and around the MOAs and/or underneath transit routes to and from the MOAs from NASWI. The metrics bear little to no relevance to how noise is experienced by people and wildlife, offering little basis for the subsequent conclusions of minimal or negligible impact to socio-economic and ecological resources (Section 3.12.3.2.1.1). The modeling downplays or disregards impacted areas, does not model noise in areas where it is clearly occurring, and ignores the existence and implications of spatio-temporal concentrations of noise impacts. This modeling and analysis should be updated to produce noise maps and metrics that are relevant to assessing impact on people and wildlife, as well as incorporating detailed information from existing acoustic monitoring data. Noise monitoring by independent parties should be conducted over a broad geographic area to evaluate realized impacts. The feasibility and utility of conducting this type of monitoring to inform environmental impacts of aircraft is exemplified in (L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019) as well as the 2010-2011 Acoustic Monitoring Report by the National Park Service (described on pages J- 26 and J-27 of the Appendix J).</p>	The noise model used, MR_NMap is the appropriate method to evaluate aircraft noise in special use airspace such as the Olympic MOA. This model is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses. How noise impacts any individual is highly subjective, often depending as much on the individual as it does the sound source. What this Noise Modeling Analysis accomplishes is the determination of metrics, which are then compared to established noise standards.
Kuehne-09	These comments were submitted (with all attachments) via certified US Postal Service Mail on June 12th, 2019. The comments were also submitted (with only the file titled L. Kuehne, Final Report, 11 June 2019 to accommodate the 1 MB file upload limit) using the online form. I would like to note that the 1 MB file upload limit is highly restrictive and causes unnecessary burden on those participating in the public comment process.	The commenting feature on the project website, while not a NEPA requirement, was added by the Navy to further facilitate commenting by the public. While the 1 MB limitation restricts larger file uploads, it does allow the Navy to continue supporting this feature in a cost-effective manner. Over 1,800 comments were received on this project through website commenting and attachments, with very few affected by this limit. The Navy will review this file size limitation for future projects.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Kuehnert-1	Please stop using sonar.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kukuljan-1	I want to encourage testing Tehnology which is not harming marine life. Orcas and other sea mamals are very sensitive on sound stimulus. Strong sonars are very harmfull for them. Keeping our marine life live and healthy is very important for life quality of humans and rest of the planet.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kurkpatrick-1	Something to conceptacting The whales are dying more thought on how to stop this; rather then killing them. With any testing and training, where the marine mammals, are in the ocean.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Kyle-1	We have to protect our oceans. Our planet depends on the ocean for life. Sonar testing destroys this fragile ecosystem. We need to start taking accountability for our actions and start acting like the superior race. Please consider what you are doing. Our lives and the lives of our children depend on it.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
<b>L</b>		
L-1	I am against this testing due to the proven harm to marine mammals and damage to their hearing. These intelligent creatures communicate through	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	complex sounds to hunt and thrive, and the damaging underwater sonar puts them at risk.	and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Labrash-1	<p>This comment is in response to The Navy's proposal to move their training and testing activities in the Olympic Peninsula area.</p> <p>I feel the plan outlined in this EIS will have disastrous results for Olympic National Park, the Peninsula, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in terms of harming our ecosystem.</p> <p>The noise generated by 19 trips per day of 3-jet Growler teams will be harmful to the people and wildlife of the Peninsula. That, in turn will hurt the health and economy of the Peninsula and the State of Washington.</p> <p>Noise levels within the Olympic airspace will range from over 80 dB to 100 dB. Continued exposure to noise above 85 dBA over time will cause hearing loss. People in Forks have reported measuring 94 dBA with solo flights.</p> <p>There are other health problems that are caused or made worse by noise. They include: high blood pressure (hypertension), heart disease (ischemic heart disease), and mental health problems. Loud repetitive noises also contribute to disruption of the ecosystem and our native wildlife.</p> <p>The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries represents one of North America's most productive and marine ecosystems and spectacular undeveloped coastlines.</p> <p>I will argue there are other places where this training has occurred and can occur.</p> <p>ONLY the No Action Alternative is acceptable to the Olympic Peninsula's environment. Also we need a 30-day extension to comment period.</p> <p>Alternatives 1 &amp; 2 will harm the health and economy of the Peninsula.</p> <p>I am asking the Navy to reconsider and use alternative sites where they may do their electronic warfare training.</p>	<p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Lacson-1	Marine mammals such as Orcas and Dahl's Porpoise rely on hearing to survive and connect with each other. These are social animals adapting to strained resources and a changing climate. We cannot take their sensory ability to hear away from them for any reason. It is unconscionable.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Laffan-1	Please re-think the use of sonar, it has been proven that it is harmful to dolphins/whales. It is unacceptable to disturb, let alone harm these individuals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Laflam-1	I am a concerned person who had lived in the northwest my entire life. I am against underwater sonar testing! It has been proven to harm marine life! I am truly concerned for the southern resident orcas and all other marine life. Under water sonar testing should not be allowed!!! Thank you. Candace LaFlam	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lahti-1	My husband of 44 years and I continue a 38-year-old-tradition of spending time in the Olympic National Forest & Park. Roughly at the onset of the 2015 level of the Growler flyovers, we began to notice the peace and quiet we came here to seek was a threatened privilege. The space impacted by these sudden, loud, unnatural noises is roughly the space most accessible to tourists (along coastal land). More than 3 million of us per year visit these public lands primarily for the natural silence available in a temperate coastal rain forest; a designation unique in our vast and varied nation. That lands should be set aside as too precious to be owned or sold but should be space for all citizens was a great dream of democracy. But it was implemented prior to the airplane and made no specific prohibition of violating its airspace. Just as research is beginning to show the deleterious relationship of unnatural sound on human health (increased blood-pressure and heart-rate, Alzheimer's prevalence in populations increasing near interstate highways, for openers), this proposal comes along to	The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	increase sound impact over the spaces where people might go to recuperate from the acoustic stressors of urban life. The plan should be seriously reconsidered and spaces sacred to silence with Park designation be widely circumvented by peacetime, routine, Navy practice missions.	
Lambert-1	No sonar testing!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lance-1	Just like we need to preserve and care for all inhabitants on land we need to do the same for the ones in the waters. It is called balance of mother earth. Have we as humans learned nothing when the oil spill with BP and Exxon Mobil happened? Sonar testing has proven to cause distress and in some cases death to these animals. There should be a mandate that allows the military to be open and transparent with the public on projects that require testing in the oceans and on land ( testing that requires drilling into the earth.)	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lane-1	We do not need to be terrorizing the beautiful sea creature. Some species literally beach themselves to get away from that lawful sound. We don't have enough now get you the U.S. Navy continue to decimate the few we have left. Come up with something besides sonar or sonic booms for oil! And quickly. And yes I value dolphins and whales more than navy's use of deafening sonar. We can do better. We must do better!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lang D-1	The Navy has shown itself to be a strong steward of the environment and has a track record of reviewing feedback critically. I am far more concerned with the City of Seattle, that admits to dumping millions of gallons of untreated sewage directly in to the sound. The ferry boats used by Seattle commuters hit and kill whales, as do the thousands of ships that use the	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Port of Seattle. Each of these points can easily be fact check with the search engine of your choice. To act like the Navy is the problem in Puget Sound is a disgrace to common sense.	
Lang R-1	I know the outlying field has been there longer than we have. When it began the aircraft being flown were propeller aircraft that could not be heard from Port Townsend. Times have changed and the aircraft have become exponentially louder. I can no longer sleep with our windows open at night. my wife can no longer garden during the day, all due to the noise of aircraft practice landing. I have heard it called the sound of freedom, it however is not that sound but the sound of disturbance. It may or may not be physically damaging, I am not a scientist in that realm so I do not know. I however am a human being that is being adversely affected by the lack of sleep and an adverse effect in my marriage due to the noise. The United States should do better by their citizens. the arguments that this is the best place for this aircraft carrier landing practice is absolutely not true. The impact here is felt in our community as a rebuke to our military and an assault on our National Parks that are here to preserve the natural state, not undermine it.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Langosch-1	I am completely against this. This has the ability to harm our already endangered southern resident orcas. With a new baby just born, we should be trying to prolong its life.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lannan-1	Respectfully, I would like to formally object to the Navy's training and testing program and would like to see stronger protections for the fragile ocean life and Native Tribes Cultural Lifeways. The cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy's	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>training and testing activities is especially important because these activities take place in the near coastal regions of the Pacific Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and is critically important for the wellbeing of all people and lifeforms on this planet. I believe the Navy must reduce impacts to the Native Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities. The Navy should also prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals. The "best available science" referenced in the draft SEIS should be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. The Navy's monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. The current standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy should expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing</p>	<p>EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy will continue to consult with the Tribes. Through Government-to-Government consultations, the Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.</p>
Lannan-2	<p>The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should also be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</p>	<p>The Navy discusses ocean acidification in the context of climate change in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) and 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality) of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and includes information from scientific studies conducted since 2015. The Navy acknowledged in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) that "metals tend to dissociate" in more acidic ocean conditions. The Navy added a reference back to these two sections in the sections analyzing the impacts of explosives (Section 3.1.4.1) and metals (Section 3.1.4.2). Note that corrosion can also act to insulate ordnance and other metal items from contact with seawater and sediments, slowing or even halting further corrosion and movement of metals into the adjacent sediments and water column. The effects of climate change on the ocean environment, particularly effects specific to a particular region like ocean waters in the Pacific Northwest, continue to be researched and to evolve and are not necessarily predictable. For example, as described in Section 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality), increases in ocean acidity are believed to reduce the availability of carbonate in the water column, which is needed by organisms to generate calcium carbonate structures. However, increases in sea surface temperature associated with climate change appear to stimulate calcification</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		at an even greater rate, essentially overriding the inhibiting effects of lower pH levels and leading to unexpected high abundance of cocolithophores (which build protective scales from calcium carbonate) in some ocean regions.
Laperriere-1	Please stop. This is cruelty. I wish our military was more compassionate and empathic.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Larimer-1	<p>In Table ES-1: Summary of Environmental Impacts for the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2, Section 3.12 ( ES-24), the Preferred Alternative states, "Impacts on socioeconomic resources are expected to be minor because inaccessibility to areas of co-use would be localized and temporary, the Navy's strict standard operating procedures would minimize physical disturbance and strikes of commercial and recreational watercraft, most airborne activities would occur well out to sea far from tourism and recreation locations, aircraft activities in the Olympic MOAs are expected to have negligible impacts on socioeconomic resources, and impacts to commercially important marine species are not expected."</p> <p>When assessing the interaction of social and economic factors in the Puget Sound Area, any threat to the region's iconic and endangered marine mammal, the Resident Orca, cannot be underestimated. Washington designated the orca whale (<i>Orcinus orca</i>) as the official state marine mammal due to the research and persuasion of second-graders from Crescent Harbor Elementary School in Oak Harbor, WA. Groups as diverse and economically vital as newly hired hi-tech workers and out-of-state summer tourists recognize the Orca's symbolic status our great state, and have been influenced by it's economic pull. Further threats to this unique sub-species endemic to the Salish Sea in turn threaten a myriad of Orca-centric economic systems.</p> <p>The Southern resident Orca population is currently at a 35 year low. While the "sound-producing activities " noted in Table ES-1, Section 3.4 (ES-10) are not expected to have "long-term consequences for the species or stocks" according to this Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, this is in direct contradiction to the finding that anthropogenic noise can cause auditory masking, "leading to cochlear damage, ... altered metabolisms, hampered</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>population recruitment...." (Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2015 Oct; 12(10): 12304–12323. ) Given these populations are already at great risk due to PCB-mediated effects on reproduction and immune function (Science 28 Sep 2018:Vol. 361, Issue 6409, pp. 1373-1376), and the depletion of their primary food source (Southern Resident Killer Whale Priority Chinook Stocks Report; NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; June 22, 2018).</p> <p>The responsibilities of the Navy are significant and vital to our security. Yet the risk of losing broad public support for the Service throughout population dense Western WA, due to a miscalculation of the impact of these proposed activities on a highly-valued species such as the Orca, should not be minimized.</p>	
Larkin-1	<p>I am writing in respsne to the United States Navys plan to do sonar testing off the coast of caliornia. The plan is to do this testing 12 miles off the coast. Even 300 miles from the source sonar canbe 140 decibals.Wales especially use sound for communication and navigation. Royal Society B shows that even mid-frequency noisces disrupt feeding patterns in baleen whales and could negatively affect entire populations. Over 200 melon-headed whales beached off the coast of Hawaii in 2004 How can the Navy justify alowing testing that kill whales and other sea life? Our coast is a very special area where there is an upwhelming of a nutrients for saline. Using sonar so close to shore will disrupt the lifecycle of not only whales,but other sea life.</p> <p>I have lived over 49 years off the Mendocino Coast of California. I also row in the ocean where I have been surrounded by many different species of whales including Humpback and Blue. Many tourists come to our aera to observe and be awed by the whale sightings. We even have two weekends where tourists come into our area from"decreased our Abalone, salmon, crab andother over the world to observe these beautifu animals. How can the Navy justify disrupting the migration of whales as a means of protecting our coast. Our community needs the tourist industry since due to other environmental problems have damaged our abalone, salmon and crab industry.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Larkin-2	<p>Basically, Scientific American reported that in 2005, 34 whales were killed off the North Carolina coast due to the Navy's sonar testing. I row off the coast of California on a whale boat, and the gray whales basically, when I first moved here, their migration was from basically October through March. I have seen whales, humpback whales, blue whales, not during that time. So if the Navy says, "Well, we will do it when whales are not</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	migrating or moving," I'm not saying that the humpback whales are migrating, all I know is I have seen those whales out there and I've been close to them. In that Scientific American article also, they said that whales hearing the sound, the sonar, they bleed from the eyes and ears. I would not like that to happen off our coast. I feel like the whales deserve to have a place, as we all do. And I feel the Navy's decision to want to do this is totally against the whales and those of us who live on the coast. Simple. Thank you.	populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.  Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, and the "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)" ( <a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a> ).
Larkins-1	I am submitting comments on this proposal as I feel it is not humane for the implementation of sonar to make large stretches of ocean uninhabitable for endangered killer whales.  It is not acceptable to pollute these sea creatures' environment with this noise and it likely interferes with their very being, adversely affecting Navigation, communication and subsequent feeding and mating.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Larson C-1	These harmful military practices are unacceptable. A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. □ "For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival," Calambokidis said. □ Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations. □ Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times. □	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Larson J-1	I have reviewed the additional documents provided since 2015, and note that the updated analyses and assessments are impressively comprehensive, but not without some perceived deficiencies. From my perspective, a summary of these areas of concern include: * a lack of some specific exposure risk data/ratings to be correlated for the	The Navy completed the analysis of impacts to marine life using the best available science and presenting the findings in a manner that is consistent with the output of the acoustic model, and in a format that best informs the National Marine Fisheries Service. For all topics described in Chapter 8, the Navy completed a thorough analysis using the best available science.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>listed profiled marine life and for the various enumerated range of naval exercises,</p> <p>*a "minimalist" approach to giving thorough analysis to each of the public issues that were listed in V.1 under 8.2 - especially 8.2.2.1-8.2.2.10 &amp; 8.2.2.16.</p>	
Larson J-2	<p>* Where is the justification/acknowledgment and detailed discussion about how project activities for ALT.1 impact O.N.P. as a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve ? Our local paper noted how O.N.P. has &gt;3 million visits resulting in ~\$260 million to local economy. Where is Navy data for survey of public response to its project activities and possible anxiety and noise averse response?</p>	<p>The potential impacts to the Olympic National Park as a World Heritage Site were analyzed in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS. That analysis has not changed. The potential economic impacts were analyzed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources).</p>
Larson J-3	<p>* While V.2 does provide some actual dBA data about EA-18G possible effects on a hiker, it is missing discussion that might be pertinent and provided in ANSI references for that section.</p> <p>* Finally, Navy needs ongoing monitoring plan to determine if adverse effects occur, E5.7.5.3 is actually true and project could be ended.</p>	<p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.
Laspesa-1	I moved from Chicago, IL here to the Northwest in 2011 to escape the chaos of noise and concrete, and to be able to relax in my environment. The peace and tranquility of this peninsula was healing. Since the growlers have been flying by there are not hours of quiet any longer. Sleeping under the stars is usually magical, however now with the growlers flying by I feel like I live next to O'Hare airport with planes taking off at very regular and tight intervals. I cannot imagine hearing more!!! I understand that practice makes perfect. I also believe there are other bases that would allow for that practice without affecting those people (I am including myself) that need the solace of this place, and without affecting the animals that live here that use sonar and other senses sensitive to the technology used in all of the naval training. Please include me the Supplemental EIS/OEIS mailing list (email is cjlaspesa@gmail.com) so that I may receive notification of public meetings and project information.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Lassiter-1	Please just stop the noise. It's inhumane. With all the technology, it's not necessary. I can not imagine the pain. The environment is already critical and ocean life is almost nonexistent Please please stop the noise.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/</a></li><li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li><li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li><li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li><li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li></ul>
Lauducci-1	Please monitor all noise imposed on the Olympic National Forest in real time. This area is unique and a treasure to be preserved. The quiet space it provides for creatures that live there and for people who visit needs to be protected at all cost.	DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses <sup>1</sup> . The following text <sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Noise pollution is real and has a detrimental effect. We cannot afford to lose this space of respite. Please be a good neighbor and cause no harm.	<p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Lauren-1	Please stop these practices it is really damaging and distressing to marine life. The evidence is clear this disturbing noise causes severe stress and stranding's in marine mammals. We would not put up with listening to this as humans so why should they? It is time to end this now and create a peaceful marine environment. These species deal with enough pollution and plastic in their homes without having the additional pain and distress from these noises. Do the right thing.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Laurino-1	With ongoing efforts to care for the ocean and the flora and fauna it supports, dumping toxic waste in the ocean is completely counter productive and should be recognized as an unnecessary risk to put on an already stressed part of our ecosystem. Ocean temperatures are rising; the southern resident orcas are threatened due in part to an insufficient food supply and environmental toxins; the sea stars have only just begun recovering from the viral assault - these are just the main headline	The Navy does not propose to dump toxic waste in the ocean. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	problems facing the ocean life in our region. There has to be a better method for disposal. Please make it a top priority not to pollute our ocean waters with this toxic waste.	or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.  The analysis of impacts of the Navy's activities on water quality can be found in Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Lautsch-1	I am 100% opposed to this testing being done. Please for the sake of the wildlife in our oceans, please please do not let sonar testing happen. Please !!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lavelle-1	I am 100% against sonar testing. The use of underwater sonar can lead to hearing loss and even death in marine mammals. These sound waves can travel for hundreds of miles under water, and can retain an intensity of 140 decibels as far as 300 miles from their source. Our Orca population in the Pacific Northwest are already struggling due to loss of salmon caused by over fishing and dams blocking their migration up river to reproduce. We need to protect these national treasures not further kill them off. Pleases stop sonar testing.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lawrence-1	The Navy must cease and desist sonar in the Salish Sea causing the already endangered Southern Resident Orcas certain death.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Le Goff-1	I would like to voice my concern for the welfare of marine animals affected by noise pollution. Now more than ever, the balance and health of our	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	oceans is crucial. The sustainability of the marine environment as a viable habitat and food source for marine animals and humans alike is in danger. This threat is larger and more imminent than the possibility of war or issues of national defense. Beyond this, it is immoral and even criminal to knowingly inflict pain and loss of hearing to innocent animals.	<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Leadbitter-1	I strongly oppose these unnecessary sonar wave tests.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Leanne-1	<p>The Southern Resident Orcas and</p> <p>A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. [ ]</p> <p>[ ] "For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival. Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations. [ ]</p> <p>Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times. [ ]</p> <p>This is why is disagree with it!</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Lebaron-1	<p>The Navy is in clear VIOLATION of the following: The Noise Control Act of 1974 <a href="https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Noise-pollution">https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Noise-pollution</a> MAXIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE LEVELS <a href="https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-60-020">https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-60-020</a> (9) "Noise" means the intensity, duration and character of sounds, from any and all sources WAC 173-60-040 Maximum permissible environmental noise levels. <a href="https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-60-040">https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-60-040</a> (c) At any hour of the day or night the applicable noise limitations in (a) and (b) above may be exceeded for any receiving property by no more than: (i) 5 dBA for a total of 15 minutes in any one-hour period; or (ii) 10 dBA for a total of 5 minutes in any one-hour period; or (iii) 15 dBA for a total of 1.5 minutes in any one-hour period. We have proof of noise levels over 70 DBA, so now what? It is not right that the Navy can skirt around these laws that were put in place to ensure "QUIET ENJOYMENT" OF OUR PROPERTY AND OUR PARKS</p>	<p>The Noise Control Act of 1974 allows the EPA to regulate products in interstate commerce, but specifically exempts military weapons or equipment designed for combat use. The federal government is not generally subject to the laws and regulations of any individual state. Appendix J of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS analyzes potential noise impacts from the Proposed Action. Any noise resulting from proposed training or testing is attributable to the safe execution of training and testing requirements within the analyzed Study Area.</p>
Lebaron-2	<p>Who are our enemies that we are building up to defend against? Russia? They hacked our election and are destroying our country from within thru hate groups in Social Media thru Russian Bots. China? They finance our debt. Not likely. North Korea? They are disarming, don't you know? <a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/navy-rejects-call-for-more-monitoring-of-growler-jet-training-on-whidbey-island/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/navy-rejects-call-for-more-monitoring-of-growler-jet-training-on-whidbey-island/</a> <a href="https://video.newyorker.com/watch/the-backstory-why-noise-pollution-is-more-dangerous-than-we-think">https://video.newyorker.com/watch/the-backstory-why-noise-pollution-is-more-dangerous-than-we-think</a> The Navy has "Anti-Gravity" planes that are noiseless! Yes, here is the patent and the proof: <a href="https://exonews.org/the-us-navy-secretly-designed-a-super-fast-futuristic-aircraft-resembling-a-ufo-documents-reveal/">https://exonews.org/the-us-navy-secretly-designed-a-super-fast-futuristic-aircraft-resembling-a-ufo-documents-reveal/</a> So the Navy could not be torturing us with these out-dated War Planes, when they actually have silent, more advance planes to defend us with. There is a movie out called; "Plane Truths" (<a href="http://planettruths.org/">http://planettruths.org/</a>) that focuses on the decibels of the Growlers, the affects our hearing (, the effects on locals working outside trying to farm and sell vegetables, the crash site areas by public institutions- Middle School, Hospital, houses and the flights over the Olympic National Parks that drive off campers- leaving in the middle of the night after being subjected to high volume noise</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>pollution until 1 am. The ground water around Whidbey is contaminated by fire retardant. There are solutions that need to be addressed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insist that the Navy dig new deeper wells for all private wells the are affected by their polluted ground water issue and stop blending the polluted wells into the public water system. For the cost of a new Growler, they can afford to fix this health issue that they are responsible for.</li> <li>2. The Navy is not supporting the community because it pays no taxes, so many basic services are being eliminated. The Oak Harbor Public Pool closed last year due to insufficient funding.</li> <li>3. When the airfield was built in the 1940's much smaller planes were in use. There is a huge airfield at China Lake in California - covers more than 1,100,000 acres. As of 2010, at least 95% of that land has been left undeveloped. We will continue to loose tourists if they get the word out that the Growlers are disrupting their vacations, and locals are loosing their hearing, their health to water contaminants, under threat of plane crash zones. Residents have measured the noise at over 130 decibels on Whidbey in residential areas. This is loud enough to damage hearing.</li> <li>4. AND the most important issue that I did not bring up, is that if a foreign power wants to take out the base, why have all the growlers in ONE LOCATION that is easy to HIT???? Isn't it better to take the extra planes to California and spread them out????</li> </ol> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a.. Hearing loss: <a href="https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/noise-induced-hearing-loss">https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/noise-induced-hearing-loss</a></li> <li>b. Growler Noise: <a href="https://washingtonenvironmentalprotectioncoalition.org/2-how-growler-jets-harm-owls-and-other-wildlife/2-2-how-the-navy-mislead-usfw-on-jet-noise-levels">https://washingtonenvironmentalprotectioncoalition.org/2-how-growler-jets-harm-owls-and-other-wildlife/2-2-how-the-navy-mislead-usfw-on-jet-noise-levels</a></li> <li>c. Growler Noise data cooked: <a href="http://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/long-awaited-eis-concludes-growler-noise-not-linked-to-health-problems/">http://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/long-awaited-eis-concludes-growler-noise-not-linked-to-health-problems/</a></li> <li>d. <a href="https://disclosuredeception.wordpress.com/noise-volume/">https://disclosuredeception.wordpress.com/noise-volume/</a></li> <li>e. hearing damage: <a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/northwest/more-growlers-on-whidbey-island-increase-noise-levels-navy-study-says/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/northwest/more-growlers-on-whidbey-island-increase-noise-levels-navy-study-says/</a></li> <li>f. hazardous to hearing: <a href="https://citizensofebaysreserve.com/2013/05/05/very-disturbing-noise-facts-from-the-navy/">https://citizensofebaysreserve.com/2013/05/05/very-disturbing-noise-facts-from-the-navy/</a></li> <li>g. Lopez Concerns: <a href="http://www.islandsweekly.com/life/plane-truths-and-">http://www.islandsweekly.com/life/plane-truths-and-</a></li> </ol>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	growler-noise-on-lopez-island/ h. Olympic National Park Noise: <a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/olympic-national-park-is-no-place-for-growler-jets/">https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/olympic-national-park-is-no-place-for-growler-jets/</a>	
Lebrun-1	I feel the Navy has failed to adequately address the environmental impact of noise levels within the broader Olympic Peninsula, including all area where flight patterns will have impact, not just the MOAs. The Navy needs to closely monitor noise levels in all affected areas and not rely solely on models as is currently being done in other areas. If there were no other areas within this vast country to carry out such military exercises this discussion would not be happening. But clearly there are other areas and other alternatives, and they should be considered. Moving forward with this plan is a disservice to the American public and all those from other countries who come to visit this pristine National Park.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Ledbetter-1	Though I strongly object to destructive real war or war game practice activities to occur in the universal habitat of humans and other living species, I write this comment to strongly object to the proposed War Games that include the use of Sonar and other toxic and destructive weapons in my immediate habitat the oceanic waters of the Pacific North West, specifically less than a mile from the ocean. Just the mere fact the proposal is for the “need to practice” these War Games clearly shows NO ONE has any idea of how the various toxic weapons will work in our area or their effect on the environment. This fact makes it very clear there are real possibilities of risky unknown negative short and long term effects that will result in a negative way on the well being, health, and livelihood of the humans and other species of animals and plants that live in the waters and near the areas requested in the permit for these War Games. The obvious potential of the serious unknown dangerous outcomes absolutely make it obvious these war games must NOT occur. While I am concerned about the lack of understanding of the short and long term effects of the war games on our environment in my immediate habitat, it is also clear that there are further potential complications of the unknown long term domino effects the proposed war game activities will have upon the many species of our planet as a whole. With this in mind I must point out the following: Our oceans and waters are all connected, either through the various conjunctions - rivers, seas, etc. where they join each other, or through the rivers of water carried by the clouds overhead to bring the rains that supply	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>the waters to the inlands of our planet.</p> <p>Just as all species including the human species depend on healthy oceans for the planet temperature to maintain a healthy environment, we depend on these living waters to interact with healthy air, and soil to maintain our living habitat.</p> <p>Those who are given the opportunity to be representatives of the people of the United States, who have agreed to protect the well being of our land and people, and whose decisions ultimately effect all people in the world, we must NOT continue to pursue this idea of increasing perfection of how to kill other people through WAR AND WAR GAME activities. If we do, in the process we will only bring more war and destruction upon ourselves. With these facts I have addressed, I say in all sincerity and with all due respect for the well being of all of our human family, including the families of those who are asking for a permit to conduct the proposed war games on and in the Pacific North West Ocean, and those in the representative position to consider the permit request:</p> <p>On behalf of myself and others, and all of the species who reside in the surrounding seas and on the land, approving this permit request is not the way to protect the well being of all of the species of our living breathing human habitat - planet earth.</p> <p>The only healthy human choice you have available to protect our human habitat is to deny the approval to go forward with this ill thought out permit request plan.</p>	
Ledbetter-2	<p>The first thing I want to say is this meeting or whatever you want to call this presentation tonight was absolutely inappropriate and inadequate. People could not hear questions or answers. And we need to come together in another meeting, in an assembly form, with microphones, so one person can ask a question and we can all hear the answer so that we understand fully, together as a community, what is the scope of this activity that we don't approve of in the first place. And we don't support the danger to our environment and our animals in the sea, and we just want no risks taken with them. They're part of our environment and they're important to us. But we needed a type of a meeting that would allow the Navy to hear us, and their organization that we as taxpayers pay for. We need for them to be able to hear us as a group and for us to hear them as a group so we can come together and make appropriate decisions. This was totally fragmented. It created such chaos that it's shameful. It's shameful. And I would add, I want to see another meeting set up here within the next week or two, with an assembly form, so then we can truly make comments based</p>	<p>The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	on full information. And if two weeks is too short, which will give us time to comment by I think it's June 12th, then they need to extend the comment time so that it would coincide with a fair amount of time for all of us to get a fair time to make statements and then to hear information and then reply and comment.	
Leddy-1	According to Navy's own admission over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar. Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times. □That is not even mentioning our SRKW, our Biggs orcas and all the other marine mammals including pinnipeds. This is not acceptable to use sonar in these inland waters. We know it kills and maims and we are in an inland sea teeming with unique species. Time to restrict this activity in our waters as we work to save our endangered resident orcas.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lee A-1	<p>Anyone with any common sense can see what the effects of the proposed testing will be. If it ever comes to the point where the US Navy feels the need to bomb something under the ocean surface, I'm sure it will be able to do so.</p> <p>Below please find one argument against this project.</p> <p>Researchers Have Identified How Naval Sonar Is Killing And Beaching Whales</p> <p>January 31, 2019 - by Alex Larson, edited by me.</p> <p>We have known for a long time that naval sonar has devastating effects on marine life but just exactly how it leads to sickness and death was a mystery till now. New research published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B explains that the sound emitted by sonar is so intense that marine mammals will swim hundreds of miles, dive deep into the abyss, or even beach themselves to flee from the sounds that are literally unbearable to them.</p> <p>In particular, beaked whales are one of the marine mammals often found beached due to sonar testing. Prior to the 1960s, beaked whale strandings were extremely rare; after the Navy started to use mid-frequency active sonar (MFAS) in the 1960s to detect submarines, beached whales became very common. The recently published paper, a summary of a 2017 meeting of beaked whale experts in the Canary Islands, revealed that, although beaked whales are adapted to perform deep water dives for hours at a time, the sonar is so powerful distresses them so much that they dive deep</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex.</p> <p>Based on the analysis in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS and monitoring conducted during actual training and testing events, the proposed training will not pose a risk to whales, fish, and other wildlife given that these same types of activities have been conducted for many years here and in other Range Complexes with no indications of broad-scale impacts that are either injurious or of significant biological impact to marine mammals, fish, or wildlife at those locations. Please see the recent results supporting this as presented in training ranges monitoring reports available at the Navy website (<a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a>) and from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website (<a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications</a>).</p> <p>On the Navy's website you can find the Navy's technical report on marine mammal strandings. This report includes the Canary Islands' and the Bahamas' stranding events and can be found at <a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>too quickly causing decompression sickness or "the bends" from nitrogen bubbles in their blood. The nitrogen can cause hemorrhaging and damage to whales' vital organs.</p> <p>"In the presence of sonar they are stressed and swim vigorously away from the sound source, changing their diving pattern," lead author Yara Bernaldo de Quiros told AFP. "The stress response, in other words, overrides the diving response, which makes the animals accumulate nitrogen. It's like an adrenaline shot."</p> <p>The conclusions are drawn from autopsies of dead whales, although a handful of animals were killed by other threats inflicted by humans, such as collisions with ships, entanglement in fishing nets, and disease. The authors note that to mitigate the impacts of sonar on beaked whales, we must ban its use in areas where they are found. A moratorium on the use of MFAS around the Canary Islands in 2004 shows just how well this works - no atypical strandings have been seen since. The researchers urge other countries where sonar is deployed, such as the US, Greece, Italy, and Japan, to follow suit.</p>	
Lee Kar-1	<p>Your testing is irrelevant, outdated and damaging the wildlife. There's no place for things of his nature to be happening with the navy. This must stop. Respect the ocean and what lives within it!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/">www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lee Kat-1	<p>I am writing to support STOP using sonar testing which causes hearing loss to thousand of marine inhabiting in the area. Many marine animals need to utilise sound and they could loose their survival skills without their hearing</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	capability. Don't kill or destroy animals that you think are in your way. Instead, please protect them!	EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lee Ky-1	Our marine animals are crucial to our ocean systems. This harms them all.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/">www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lees-1	Please stop this cruel practice, it is causing massive harm and pain to our marine mammals!!!! Whales and dolphins are going through unbelievable suffering because of this	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/">www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lemasters-1	Please reconsider sonar testing. You're hurting sea creatures. I am against this and you should be too.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lemons-1	<p>Please don't do this — you are aware of the increasingly delicate balance between human presence in the ecosystems they inhabit resulting in logrhythmic increases in extinctions at a scale never seen before. Moving soldiers into vanishing wilderness areas with accompanying damages from transporting them—audio and sonic disturbances— increased risk of wildfires at dry times—coastline disturbance to eel grass and fragile marine life— pollution from exhaust both gaseous and solid as well as the frightening presences of war machinery in villages and small surrounding communities should by now be seen as outdated and discarded as both inefficient and inhuman.</p> <p>If 200 acre wave parks and indoor beaches can be built as they are in Europe surely a mock up can be built on various bases where this activity can take place under secure military monitoring.</p> <p>Please don't do this</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lemons-2	<p>Thank you for listening</p> <p>My 93-year-old father was stationed at the Whidbey Island air base during world war two — he's still alive and doing well but even he agrees that the increase in noise over the years has become intolerable. I've lived in Port Townsend for 44 years so I have a reference and it's very clear that there has been a dramatic frankly unbearable increase in noise pollution from the airbase.</p>	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>There are tremendous health issues as I'm sure you are aware associated with these levels of noise – both physical and emotional and even if you will —spiritual – people with weakened immune system's and people suffering from PTSD and people who have been subjected to emotional or physical trauma like many of my friends especially veterans find this constant volume of noise extremely stressful and it can trigger PTSD episodes—</p> <p>Not to mention that property values have decreased and will continue to decrease and for many of us are homes are a lifetime investment and to see the equity in them disappear is very difficult.</p> <p>And of course the natural environment is also infected – especially the animals but domestic animal like horses by the low flyovers and the sound of the jets.</p> <p>With that said I understand that the Navy is a critical part of our nations defense—no wants or is asking for the Navy to leave—instead it should be possible to work something out where the flight patterns are less over the cities and municipalities and more over uninhabited space. It would be good to get a full nights sleep during the week and to be able to sit outside and have a conversation with friends without having to shout over the sound of the growlers and that's not hyperbole – it's actually that loud.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this and for taking into consideration the feelings of the citizens affected by these flights.</p>	<p>commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Lenton-1	<p>The Marine Mammals in our waters are struggling to survive as it is = No fish from pollution, NOISE and over-fishing.</p> <p>How can you allow for this to happen??? Now or ever.</p> <p>I am 100% against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Leof-1	<p>The sonar on marine life concerns me. I am very concerned about the adverse effects of this program for the health of sea mammals &amp; everything smaller. I have viewed the Navy as the most forward thinking branch of our military &amp; this program seems to me to be wrong. Please reconsider &amp; take concern for the bigger picture – the health of all life.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Leonard-1	I think it's unacceptable to test in the Puget Sound or anywhere else in the northwest. I understand that the military is an important component for the safety of our country, but there has got to be a way to live alongside our orcas and other important marine life. Our resident orcas have been diminishing and the Navy should not be part of their destruction. We have a responsibility to maintain and respect wildlife. I think human civilization and technology is advanced enough to find a way to significantly minimize disruption and harm to our wildlife while also maintaining our country's security. In addition, to appeal to one's empathic side, orcas are extremely smart, loving, highly emotional creatures. The Navy is harming these sentient beings and it needs to be recognized that real harm is being done here and something needs to be done to remedy this. I would strongly urge the Navy to prioritize wildlife.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lepage-1	You must stop this horrible noise and leave the ocean and it's animals alone.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Leung-1	<p>While the Tribes are opposed to all training and testing, Ask that the Navy work meaningfully with Pacific coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State your support of Tribal opposition to all Navy training and testing,</li> </ul>	Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>and demand that the Navy prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request that the “best available science” referenced in the Draft SEIS be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy’s NWTT.</li> <li>• Request that the Navy’s monitoring program be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</li> <li>• Request the Navy to expand its list of environmental “stressors” to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</li> <li>• Request that the cumulative effect of ocean acidification should also be considered in the SEIS.</li> </ul> <p>The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy’s 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</p>	
Lewis C-1	I am against underwater testing in the PNW	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy’s ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lewis M-1	<p>The increased noise from Navy jet flights has created a significant and negative impact on residents in the flight path of Whidbey NAS training. In Port Townsend, near Fort Worden, loud jet noise has become a constant, ugly, grating background to our lives.</p> <p>There is no reason, other than convenience, for the Navy to conduct these training flights in such highly populated residential areas. Considering alternative sites could potentially reduce the harmful effects on people, wildlife and fragile parks.</p> <p>The fragile, irreplaceable treasures of the Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary are endangered by this destructive noise. These reserves are intended as a sanctuary for animals, marine life and humans. The jet noise and Navy training activities defiles them, disrespects their purpose and endangers life in their boundaries.</p> <p>I appreciate and support the Navy's role in our society. But Navy leaders here make their branch of the service look very bad. Their approach to the public is arrogant, callous and out-of-touch. They participate in the environmental review process in bad faith, appearing to have made their decisions before listening to requested public input. They limit the options before them without considering reasonable alternatives that could create less effect on people and wildlife. They ignore public requests to evaluate other locations for training with less impact on populations of people and wildlife, as local residents have repeatedly requested.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Li D-1	<p>We need to protect our ocean, that means marine animals living in it. Sonar tests are harmful to them. As humans, you wouldn't want to listen to some extremely loud speaker everyday. It's the same for the marine animals. Please stop testing.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Li Q-1	Please let these orcas live! Don't bother them!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Liberty D-1	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>There are a group of citizens based on the Mendocino coast who are strongly opposed to the Navy's expanded training and testing program on the Pacific Northwest coast. We met with the Navy on May 3, 2019 at their meeting in Fort Bragg, CA, and we met again on our own on June 4, 2019 to form our coalition.</p> <p>We are extremely concerned about the health of our ecosystem and our local economy if the Navy is allowed to move forward with their training plans. Our local coastline will still be adversely affected because it is scientifically proven that sonar travels 300 miles under water. It is well established that the high-intensity pulses produced by underwater military airguns can cause a range of impacts on marine mammals, fish, and other marine life, not to mention the byproducts and waste. We also care deeply about the other areas where testing will be held. In fact, we write as representatives of the entire United States.</p> <p>Changes in marine life feeding and migration patterns could drastically alter our local fishing economy. Also at risk would be the large revenue we receive from our local whale-watching tourism; people from around the globe flock to the Mendocino coast to watch the magnificent display of humpbacks, gray whales, and orcas along the gray's migration routes.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy is not proposing to use airguns in the NWTT Study Area. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.</p> <p>As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Of particular concern is the recent loss of over 148 gray whales off the West Coast because of malnutrition and vessel strikes. NOAA recently declared this die-off “a wildlife emergency.” We cannot subject these marine mammals to more risk. At the very least, we request that the Navy halt their timeline for their Draft Supplemental EIS until a thorough investigation into the gray whale die-off is completed.</p> <p>How do you plan on addressing these concerns? Will you wait until NOAA compiles its data?</p>	
Liberty D-2	<p>I am a student enrolled in Western Washington University’s Marine Naturalist program, which I finish in July.</p> <p>I’m here today to discuss your upcoming plans to test on the West coast. I speak not just for our local community, county or state; but for the whole west coast of North America. It has already been proven that such sonar and weapons testing is harmful and even fatal to marine mammals, which are already under threat.</p> <p>In April of this year a number of whales have washed up in Ireland and Scotland, just as 31 gray whales have washed up on our shores on the west coast, and dozens of humpbacks on the east coast in the same time frame. Sean O’Callaghan, a science officer with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWGD), which is carrying out a post mortem examination on dead whales in Co Sligo, said it was unlikely that natural causes are to blame.</p> <p>“Potentially those species were affected by noise pollution, such as military sonar but investigations are ongoing between Ireland and Scotland to verify that,” he says. Research published last month suggests sonar from naval ships can affect the behavior of whales from a longer distance than first thought.</p> <p>On your website you claim to:</p> <p>“Post qualified Lookouts to visually observe the area for marine species within mitigation zones prior to and during activities, and Power down or shut down active sonar if marine mammals or sea turtles are observed within the mitigation zone.”</p> <p>However, in 1960 a geophysicist working at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution named Maurice Ewing performed a series of active and passive sonar tests around the world. The tests accrued when he dropped depth charges off the coast of Perth, Australia, recording the subsequent explosion four hours and 12,000 miles later to the west in Bermuda. He discovered that low-frequency sound waves could be transmitted thousands of miles across the ocean, without diffusion or distortion. He calls this SOFAR, or “Sound Fixing and Ranging.”</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	As there is no way you do not already know this, how can you justify performing such tests when merely ceasing tests upon sight of a marine mammal is obviously inadequate? Also, are you already testing in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans?	
Liberty D-3	My name is Davina Liberty. I am a student enrolled in Western Washington University's Marine Naturalist program, which I finish in July. I'm here today to discuss your upcoming plans to test on the West Coast. I speak not just for our local community, county, or state, but for the whole west coast of North America. It has already been proven that such sonar and weapons testing is harmful and even fatal to marine mammals, which are already under threat. In April of this year, a number of whales have washed up in Ireland and Scotland, just as 31 gray whales have washed up on our shores here on the west coast, and dozens of humpbacks on the east coast in the same timeframe. Sean O'Callaghan, a science officer with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, known as IWGD, which is carrying out a post mortem examination on dead whales in Co Sligo, said it was unlikely that natural causes are to blame. "Potentially those species were affected by noise pollution such as military sonar, but investigations are ongoing between Ireland and Scotland to verify this," he says. Research published last month suggests sonar from naval ships can affect the behavior of whales from a longer distance than first thought. On your website, you claim to, quote, "Post qualified Lookouts to visually observe the area for marine species within mitigation zones prior to and during activities, and, power down or shut down active sonar if marine mammals or sea turtles are observed within the mitigation zone," end quote. However, in 1960, a geophysicist working at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution named Maurice Ewing performed a series of active and passive sonar tests around the world. The tests accrued when he dropped depth charges off the coast of Perth, Australia, recording the subsequent explosion four hours and 12,000 miles later to the west in Bermuda. He discovered that low-frequency sound waves could be transmitted thousands of miles across the ocean, without diffusion or distortion. He calls this S-O-F-A-R, or SOFAR, "Sound Fixing and Ranging." As there is no way that you do not already know this, how can you justify performing such tests when merely ceasing tests upon the sight of a marine mammal is obviously inadequate? Also, are you already testing in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans? If so, are you aware that you are already killing whales that are already under threat?	The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Liberty L-1	The proposed testing of sonar along the coast of Northern California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska has not adequately been proven to not	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>harm marine mammals. There is also the the very real threat to any humans who may also be in these waters during testing. There have not been any public notifications if and when these may take place. There have been studies by the NOAA that have linked sonar with the beaching of marine mammals along the coast the the U.S. It has also happened along the coast of the Canary Islands, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand to name just a few. This has been going on periodically coinciding with naval exercises since 1960.</p> <p>If the navy is planning to continue testing and to do these tests in the waters off the west coast of the U.S. in direct line with the migration routes of numerous species of whales and the other marine life that occupy these waters, how will you protect them? Exactly what steps are being taken by the Navy to stop this onslaught of marine mammals?</p> <p><a href="https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/whales-sonar-ban-military-navy-stranding-beached-canary-islands-a8752611.html">https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/whales-sonar-ban-military-navy-stranding-beached-canary-islands-a8752611.html</a></p>	<p>and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex.</p> <p>Based on the analysis in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS and monitoring conducted during actual training and testing events, the proposed training will not pose a risk to whales, fish, and other wildlife given that these same types of activities have been conducted for many years here and in other Range Complexes with no indications of broad-scale impacts that are either injurious or of significant biological impact to marine mammals, fish, or wildlife at those locations. Please see the recent results supporting this as presented in training ranges monitoring reports available at the Navy website (<a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a>) and from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website (<a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications</a>).</p> <p>On the Navy's website you can find the Navy's technical report on marine mammal strandings. This report includes the Canary Islands' and the Bahamas' stranding events and can be found at <a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>.</p>
Liccardo-1	<p>Please stop doing underwater sonar testing on marine animals. It's cruel and damaging.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Lieberman-1	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft supplemental EIS. I live in Port Angeles along the Strait of Juan de Fuca just West of the Elwha River Mouth. I am a teacher and enjoy summers off to spend the days with my two young children. Last summer, 2018, nearly every morning I was outside with my children and our play was interrupted by the near-deafening sounds of growler jets flying West. Though I did not use technology to be able to accurately measure the altitude at which the jets were flying, I am quite certain that the jets were often flying under their mandated altitude. Throughout the school year, on weekends and</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>afternoons when I am home, I regularly see and hear the jets traveling over my house heading East. The noise from these flights is incredibly loud, and my observations of the wildlife on the beach and nearby areas, let alone my observations of my children, show me that these organisms are affected. It is unacceptable science and policy that the research the Navy cites for the effects of sound on humans is a study from 1974 (J.D. Miller). Technology related to sound tracking, human health and research techniques have advanced light years since 1974.</p> <p>I am concerned not only with the airborne electronic warfare exercised, but also that the Navy wishes to couple this activity “with training and testing Activities (which) include new activities at sea, as well as activities that are currently ongoing and have historically occurred in the Study Area.” My young children and I live along the sea on the North Olympic Peninsula, and we regularly spend time on and enjoy the peace, quiet and solitude of the Western beaches of the Olympic Peninsula in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Olympic National Park. I do not believe that while enjoying nature my children should be subject to air- or water-borne military training exercises, especially in a National Park and National Marine Sanctuary.</p> <p>I request a 30 day extension to the current June 12th comment deadline. I strongly suggest that the Navy adopts the “No Action Alternative” and moves this training to an area that does not include both areas heavily populated by humans and areas with pristine wilderness protected by a National Park that draws more than 3 million visitors annually.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy’s Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research’s Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy’s project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lightbody-1	<p>I live in Victoria, BC, Canada. I find the rumbling of the Growler aircraft very disturbing. The sound is deafening and offensive. I don’t think that it’s very neighbourly of the US Navy to infringe their Tactics on the peace and quiet of another country’s citizens. Please find a quieter way to train your pilots! Thank you</p>	<p>Growler noise in Victoria is outside the scope of the NWTTEIS/OEIS. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.</p>
Lilly-1	<p>FA-18 GROWLERS SHOULD NOT BE CONDUCTING WARFARE TRAINING OVER OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST AND OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK!</p> <p>As I sit and write this, the Growlers are flying overhead above our formerly peaceful property along the Elwha River. I can not go outside without being disturbed by their thundering sound, which causes me great stress and anxiety. It is a sinister sound, much different than passenger jets, there are always two or more, it is loud and it is constant. The idea of this permit being renewed – not to mention allowed to increase dramatically the number of flights per day - is sickening. We also have a cabin on the Bogechele River that borders Olympic National Park and Olympic National</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Forest. There have been times when they were flying so low and it was so loud it was impossible to have a conversation with the person next to me. I am not exaggerating.</p> <p>Olympic National Park is a national treasure. It's diverse ecosystems attracts people from all over the world. It is a place that is known for its beauty, solitude, wilderness and wildlife. It is not a place for warfare training. The Navy must consider other locations where warfare training is more appropriate than over a national wilderness area. The negative impact on the economy of Port Angeles and the Olympic Peninsula would be substantial.</p> <p>Do not approve the requested 5 year extension of the 2017 Navy permit over Olympic National Forest!!</p> <p>I hope that these comments are taken seriously. The recent discussions/decision to allow expanded numbers of flights had much more input regarding severely negative impact. This seems to be one of the last opportunities to protect one of the most pristine areas in our country.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Lilly-2	<p>FA-18 GROWLERS SHOULD NOT BE CONDUCTING WARFARE TRAINING OVER OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST AND OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK!</p> <p>As I sit and write this, the Growlers are flying overhead above our formerly peaceful property along the Elwha River close to the mouth that runs into the Straits. I can not go outside without being disturbed by their thundering sound, which causes me great stress and anxiety. It is a sinister sound, much different than passenger jets, there are always two or more, it is loud and it is constant. The idea of this permit being renewed - not to mention allowed to increase dramatically the number of flights per day - is sickening. We also have a cabin on the Bogecheil River that borders</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. There have been times when they were flying so low and it was so loud it was impossible to have a conversation- with the person next to me. I am not exaggerating. Olympic National Park is a national treasure. It's diverse ecosystems attracts people from all over the world. It is a place that is known for its beauty, solitude, wilderness and wildlife. It is not a place for warfare training. The EIS appears that the Navy has not considered other locations where warfare training is more appropriate than over a national wilderness area. The negative impact would be huge on the economy of Port Angeles and the Olympic Peninsula.</p> <p>Do not approve the requested 5 year extension of the 2017 Navy permit over Olympic National Forest!!</p> <p>I hope that these comments are taken seriously. The recent decision to allow expanded numbers of flights had much more input regarding the negative impact this would have, and it appeared the decision had already been made. This seems to be one of the last opportunities to protect one of the most pristine areas in our country.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Lily-1	<p>And I just wanted to check to make sure that -- I was just wondering if you were recording what was going on over there?</p> <p>Okay. Could I just talk about what's happening?</p> <p>A Yurok elder is asking Navy officials to open up a forum so that we may talk as a group. Because she says there are die offs still happening and that there's a mass extinction that we are currently in. And she's talking about how the Navy funds more in protection and that lots of money goes to that but not to protecting our -- And she has been chanting a world renewal song because we are still on Yurok lands. Thank you. And the majority of the people here are surrounding or encircling, listening to her sing. Thank</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>you.</p> <p>I just wanted to, like, suggest something that the Navy could do. And someone else said this and I thought it was a really good idea, that the Navy could -- I also heard that the Navy does humanitarian efforts and things like that. And it would be awesome -- would be wonderful if the Navy could also dedicate some of its resources and time to environmental stewardship, like, by cleaning up, like, the giant garbage patches in the ocean and helping out with, like, marine restoration areas if possible. Like -- and, oh yeah. Yeah. Putting money in for research into like deacidifying the oceans. And I think that would be great instead of just, like, funding, like, biologists to study the impacts of what they already do but to also study what they can do to -- or put to practice what we already know about, how we can help restore our oceans. And -- and that's all. Thank you.</p> <p>Yeah. I just had an idea that maybe since the Navy has, like, a public land chest I just learned about and maybe the Navy could partner with Humboldt State University or something and help protect this precious Douglas Fir forest on Rainbow Ridge in the Mattole that is threatened to be logged. And it's like one of the last of the old growth Douglas Fir forests. And the Lost Coast League is trying to protect it. But they don't have the money to do it. And the Humboldt Redwood Company owns the lands. Maybe the Navy could buy it from them. Okay. Thank you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lina D-1	None	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Lina G-1	Stop damaging the ecosystem! Endangered orcas are threatened by fisheries, human behaviour and noise pollution. Marine testing only makes this worse! It should be forbidden to threaten our own planet like this!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lindahl E-1	I do not want the navy dumping environmental stressors in the ocean off the Pacific Northwest. Please process the waste in an environmentally responsible way no matter the cost. Sinking it in the ocean does not make it disappear. Or perhaps you can dump it in the water in front of Mar el Lago on the East Coast. Really, hasn't the government learned the lessons from Hanford, 3 Mile Island, Love Canal and who knows how many purposeful environmental disasters. Just do the right thing for our children's future.	<p>Note there is no dumping involved in any of the proposed activities. The use of expendable devices and other items as they were designed does not in any way constitute the act of "dumping". Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p> <p>Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to sediments and water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.</p>
Lindahl M-1	I strongly oppose the Navy releasing heavy metals and depleted uranium into the Puget Sounds and all waters of the Salish Sea, as well as in the Pacific Ocean and all other bodies of water. Our waters are a reflection of the health of our planet. Contaminating them kills fish and other sea animals. The fish consume the pollutants which are then passed on to us. I am appalled by the Navy's intentions to release pollutants thereby harming the very waters on which our lives depend.	The Navy does not propose to release heavy metals or depleted uranium in Puget Sound. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Linehan-1	I think you should respect those of us who live in the northwest for the beauty and quiet. We value things that feed our souls. Please stop.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Linstromberg-1	First, my comment is "substantive" because, having followed this issue and read reports/comments over time germane to the Navy's plans for extensive training in the waters of the Pacific NW, my opinion is based on substantive evidence/comment. The Navy's training will include, e.g., electronic warfare practices, mine training, and torpedo testing. Fragile ocean environments including the creatures inhabiting them will be irreparably harmed. Communities depending on sea life are already suffering from climate change and disruptive practices in the ocean...the Navy's on-going and proposed activities have and will exacerbate damage. AND for what? The Navy needs to re-assess its duty to we the people.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lippincott-1	Please do not conduct any more seismic-sonar blasting-testing in the waters. We're killing everyone! This is not necessary. Please move forward into better ways. No more oil. Please stop the destruction and corruption.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lippincott-2	Please do not practice sonar testing in the Salish Sea. The Sonar confuses, causes illness, panic and distress of Cetaceans. Please do not do Sonar Testing. Thank you	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lish-1	Olympic National Park is too special to be degraded by thunderous jet noise. I am requesting the U.S. Navy use its considerable resources to avoid	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>flying over the park, and instead train in other designated military areas that do not interfere with Olympic and other national parks. Please help protect the natural sounds of Olympic National Park by finding other locations for the U.S. Navy's electromagnetic warfare training using EA18-G "Growler" jets.</p> <p>"Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."</p> <p>-- Theodore Roosevelt</p> <p>The unique qualities of Olympic have been recognized as a national park, wilderness area, International Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site. At the heart of the park is the Hoh Rain Forest, one of the quietest places in the Lower 48. Olympic National Park is a unique resource and serves as an invaluable place where millions of visitors--including military veterans, some of whom suffer from the trauma of combat--find healing peace and quiet. This place is too special to be irreparably damaged by thunderous jet noise. Places like the Hoh Rain Forest and our national parks deserve the Navy's protection.</p> <p>"Every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with the farsighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game-birds, and game-fish--indeed, all the living creatures of prairie and woodland and seashore--from wanton destruction. Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is essentially a democratic movement."</p> <p>-- Theodore Roosevelt</p> <p>Warplanes do not belong above one of the quietest, wild, and protected areas in the country. Please consider a training alternative that would avoid Growler training and noise over and around the Olympic Peninsula or other national parks.</p> <p>"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."</p> <p>-- Aldo Leopold</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.</p>	<p>the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Liu-1	<p>With all due respect, I am writing to urge the Navy to stop the extremely harmful and dangerous underwater sonar testing practices.</p> <p>The sonar testing has countless harmful effects to the environment and wildlife. Most importantly, it is putting the critically endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales living in the Salish Seas in harm's way and pushing them to the brink of extinction. Like other cetacean species, Killer Whales are very sound sensitive animals who use their auditory senses as their primary senses and rely on their hearing to navigate, hunt and survive. Due to the sonar testings, these animals' lives are being risked as their hearing is greatly damaged. With a mere population of only 76 individuals, these critically endangered Killer Whales will go extinct if no measures are taken to protect them. With this being said, it is utterly and totally unacceptable to continue having sonar testings and it must stop now.</p> <p>So please please stop this atrocious practices now before time runs out for these beautiful animals. Please spare the lives of thousands and thousands of marine animals and stop the sonar testings. We will not stop fighting for these animals until actions are taken to protect them.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Livingston-1	<p>I would like to plead for the cease of sonar testing off the coast of Washington out of deference and respect for the critically endangered Southern Resident whales and the rest of the marine life in our beautiful Salish Sea and its surrounds.</p> <p>It have been scientifically proven that sonar testing results in marine mammal injury and death. We already have far too many Gray whales, Orcas and other species dying in our waters due to starvation, noise pollution and other environmental stressors. This testing is severe and cruel.</p> <p>I ask that the military discontinue its current testing and not move forward with any future testing. I ask that we as citizens of Washington and the United States no longer allow this to occur and to protect our vital, natural resources.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Lo-1	<p>We should be doing things to improve the habitat of these southern resident killer whales, not further negatively impact them, however minor these impacts (you said) are.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lodahl-1	<p>I am a supporter of the US Military, and I thank you all for your service. With that said, The practice of sonar testing in the Salish Sea/Puget Sound need's to end. It is inhumane to subject the wild creatures that inhabit our waters, by absolutely blasting them with sound underwater. If the wild populations of this inland sea are destroyed, the sea itself will die. It does not make sense to destroy our beloved water bodies, in the process of training to protect them. The Southern Resident Orca population is already in great peril, their numbers are dwindling. This is a warning shot to us people, that things need to be different. The Governor of Washington late last year created an Orca Task force, to ensure Southern Resident survival. One of the findings by the task force was that noise pollution from boats is a threat. Sonar beaming is an even more disruptive event, blasting them with sound. The wild inhabitants of the Inland waters of the pnw should not be allowed to become collateral damage for sonar testing. Please cease this practice immediately.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Loeffler-1	<p>I am writing to indicate my concern regarding underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. [ ] A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. [ ] For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival. Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations. [ ] Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times. I urge you to reconsider these efforts and to respect the lives of the marine animals in these waters. Thank you.	
Logli-1	I am 100% against the United States Navy using underwater sonar testing as it destroys the hearing in our sea mammals	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Longoria-1	Our wildlife and resources deserve better. At this point we know full well what we are doing and it's a shame that an organization designed to help America is damaging one of its primary resources.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Lootsma-1	Please stop the noise and excersize in the oceans. It is so bad for all the animals. Stop killing them. Stop the loud sonar. You are harming the earth.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Lopez E-1	Sonic testing is unacceptable and I am 100% against it.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lopez S-1	In my opinion any further impact on already-stressed marine animals with Navy testing of a rail-gun system, pilot mine-detecting underwater drones and airborne surveillance in the Salish Sea is completely unacceptable. Consider our increasingly noisy waterways and impacts on our declining resident Orca population.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTIEIS.com">www.NWTTIEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Loran C-1	<p>Your data is lacking the study on the harmful effects it has on humans and on the economic effects on the communities.</p> <p>1) Has the growler noise caused hearing loss in civilians? On page 9 of your NW Training and Testing pamphlet, you cited decibel levels that would rarely be exposed to maximum noise levels greater than 80 decibels. How about the people on Whidbey Island who are daily being subjected to decibels way over 110 a day, the equivalent of a rock band? Statistics warn us of hearing loss due to going to loud concerts. I don't see a study on this.</p> <p>2) How has the stress of the noise of the growlers affected the health of the individuals in the affected communities? Also, on page nine, the decibel reading of an alarm clock is at 80. You turn the alarm clock off after a few minutes. Unfortunately, you can not turn a growler off, they can fly for</p>	<p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety). In this section the Navy found, in part, that "The aggregate impact on public health and safety would not observably differ." Thus, based on the analysis done by the Navy, the increase in Navy activities proposed in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS is not expected to have any noticeable effects on public health and safety. The Navy is not proposing a significant increase in Growler activity. A minor</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>hours. Sit and listen to an alarm clock for 5 hours a day, after day after day, how would that affect a person's physical health?</p> <p>3) How about sleep deprivation? I believe the noise level in a residential area must be below 45 decibels after 10:00 pm. That is there for a reason. Sleep deprivation can cause serious and mental affects in people. I don't see a study on this either.</p> <p>4) How has it affected visits to the National Park and surrounding areas? I have heard of visitors reducing their visiting days on the west end of the Peninsula because of the noise levels. We have a hiking friend, who served in the military, totally upset because he had to listen to the growlers for five hours while he was hiking on a west end river. The North Olympic Peninsula is one of the quietest places in the Lower 48. That is what draws visitors and residences to visit and live in this area.</p> <p>5) I went to a public meeting in Port Angeles on April 26th, and were told that the Peninsula is not an essential area to train in. That they train here because they get approved air space. Has there been studies where similar training can occur with the growlers where the noise levels will not have such an affect on the people or the community?</p> <p>Please consider the negative effects that this has and will, to an increasing level, subject the community and we the people whom the military is supposed to be protecting.</p>	<p>increase in training flights in the Olympic MOA is projected over the next several years; increasing by approximately 300 total flights per year by 2023; approximately 1 additional flight per day.</p>
Loran J-1	<p>Noise pollution is harmful to all life forms. It stresses humans, terrestrial and marine animals - all fauna and flora. Noise pollution generated by Navy jet flights harms all terrestrial life forms, and noise pollution in the form of sonar and explosives in the marine environment harms all marine life forms.</p> <p>As scientists determine the specific causes and attempt to develop solutions to atmospheric, fresh and marine water, and soil pollution, it is imperative the USA's Armed Forces fully cooperate with the science and ameliorate the causes it is responsible for.</p> <p>This effort on the problem of types of pollution must, and is now beginning to, address other forms of pollution, including but not limited to, noise pollution and light pollution.</p> <p>I implore the United States Navy to ameliorate the noise pollution it is responsible for causing, in order that all life forms on this planet are not harmed, some harmed to the point of death and even species extinction scenarios, so that all life forms can live in peace and flourish.</p> <p>Surely the mission of the US Navy includes ensuring the peace of the citizens of the USA. Do it!</p>	<p>Please see Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts from the Navy's proposed activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Lorca-1	I am adamantly and fully against Navy sonar testing. Y'all know it causes irreparable harm and distress to the many life forms in the ocean. It is irresponsible and unconscionable to continue to do so given the facts. Some of these creatures are already in danger of extinction. Your actions only speed their decline.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lorio-1	"I stand with the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council in strongly opposing the Navy's proposed actions. The Navy's training and testing harmfully impact the cultural and spiritual significance of #marinespecies and habitat, for the Tribes of the #WestCoast. The Navy predicts that there would be more than 500,000 instances of marine mammal behavioral impacts, harassment, and injuries over five years, including 275,000 instances of temporary hearing loss, and more than 600 instances of permanent hearing loss. Vessel strikes from increased water traffic will increase marine mammal death rate. We have already seen the loss of nine #greywhales in the San Francisco Bay area in the last six weeks. The western North Pacific population of grey whales is estimated to include fewer than 200 individuals. We cannot afford to put these animals in greater danger. Risks to #marinemammals, fish, and birds from entanglement in wires, cables, and parachutes, and ingestion of expended military materials and toxic debris will increase. The Navy holds no responsibility to clean up their spent munitions and debris." My "substantive" comment is this: NO MORE LIVES SACRIFICED FOR THE MACHINES OF WAR.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lorrain-1	Not only is our Southern Resident Killer Whales on the verge of becoming an endangered species due to starvation. They have a lack salmon to eat due to fish farms and dams preventing the salmon to spawn each year in Eastern Washington. This being said they are also under attack in another, very serious matter, as well as just under 12,000 other porpoises that live inland of our Puget Sound waters. For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit to this survival, EVEN MORE SO! Over 7 years harbor	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	porpoises in inland Washington would likely experience temporary hearing loss at least 95,942 times. This is according to the Navy's calculations. Please, let's be humane here. We aren't the only animals on this planet, we hardly even enjoy the beautiful earth we live on. Let's not ruin it for the rest of the creatures.	EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lovette-1	The Navy's underwater sonar testing practices are damaging all sorts of marine life, including the CRITICALLY ENDANGERED Southern Resident Killer Whales. This is a horrible practice and needs to stop.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lu-1	Smettete di fare i test sonar sott'acqua, LASCIATE IN PACE LE ORCHE, I DELFINI.... BASTAAAAAAA Siate maledetti	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lucas-1	The project should be moved to a less inhabited area. A desert would be a good option. The noise levels make sane living impossible. People describe the noise as that which one would expect in a war zone. Sane living is impossible near the "touch and go" operations. It is not ok to subject people daily and hourly to conditions one would experience in a war zone. Move the project and their families if the families want to go to an area in the desert where there are few people. The aircraft noise will have a severe adverse effect on threatened marine mammals in the Sound.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Lucco-1	I urge you to choose the "NO ACTION" alternative. Our oceans are in peril and all life in the oceans are at risk. We need to give some time for restoration.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Luce-1	<p>Are you quite serious? I would like to express my sincere concerns with this plan, as not only it's environmental impact but it's impact on waters we rely on to live and recreate on. What an incredibly lazy thing to do. You make a mess, you fix it. That's about as American as it gets. Or at least it used to be. Now apparently it's "take a dump in the Pacific". Don't do it.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lucy-1	<p>We should be doing everything possible to prevent these beautiful, sentient creatures from becoming extinct, not adding to their woes and causing them further problems.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Luethje-1	Please stop this!! :(	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Lufkin-1	thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. I have attached the Marine Mammal Commission letter, as they express more clearly than I ever could, my concerns about the project. In layman's terms, I am concerned about the impact of the noise on our environment, specifically orcas.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Lufkin-2	Marine Mammal Commission comment letter attached in its entirety.	<p>Please see responses to the Marine Mammal Commission comments.</p>
Lullwitz-1	Stop sonar tests in the ocean, instead use tanks for tests. The effect on the environment and the creatures is verified. Human mankind should abolish any weapons	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lumpkin-1	Like the Indian Tribes that have commented on this issue, I am opposed to all training and testing in this area. There is much that the Navy has not taken into account on an important level. This includes the Tribes special relationship to the area, the cumulative impacts that have significantly already depleted local wildlife and that your plan will only exacerbate, and the rapidly increasing impact that global climate change and the ocean's rising acidic level are having. What you want to do will result in direct damage and in pollution that will last long after those who are alive now and before this damage will have healed, which make take generations, you will want to do something very similar again. It has been well documented that sonar has important serious negative impacts on marine mammals and should not be allowed in the mitigation area at all.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Lundquist-1	I am very concerned about the impact of this testing on Southern Resident Orcas and all Salish Sea marine life. Please see the following article which tells of the effects that are now known. <a href="https://www.nature.com/news/2008/080801/full/news.2008.997.html">https://www.nature.com/news/2008/080801/full/news.2008.997.html</a> Please reconsider before harming our marine life.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lundsten-1	The Navy has to provide real data about the actual sound level of the jets as they fly over the Park, and quantify how long they fly, and how frequently. Currently, the Navy relies on vague models that average out the sound levels. Jet noise is certainly much louder and more extensive than what they say. It does not belong over public lands anywhere in NW Washington state, and certainly not over Olympic National Park. The public needs to know alternatives that would reduce or completely eliminate Navy jet flyovers of the Park. The fact that such alternatives	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations);</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>would not be as convenient for the Navy as what it currently does is not a valid reason for refusing to fully consider such alternatives. Flying over the Park is by no means a military necessity for training exercises. The Navy has many other airspaces it could fly in, but there is only one Olympic National Park.</p> <p>Stop the Growler flights over our public lands, communities, and natural areas. They do not belong there. They are WAY too loud.</p>	<p>however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.  <sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Lutzelschwab-1	Totally understand testings, but there must be previous analysis where they can take place. A lot of things can be done in simulators and CBTs	The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	(personell education), and equipment testing should/must be done harmless to the environment!! Please make better evaluations where to do testings and what the impacts will be. Wildlife is vulnerable to Sonar!!! Thank you.	Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4 (Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.
Luxenberg-1	<p>I am against the increase in jets/Growlers coming to the Whidbey Island Naval air station for many reasons, including HEALTH for the humans being impacted by the noise; impacts to national park units (Ebey's, Olympic, San Juans), impacts to natural and cultural resources; and impacts to property values, among others.</p> <p>The Navy has been disingenuous about the impacts of the noise by the jets. You can't measure the "average" noise levels and use that as the number to put in reports--residents and visitors don't experience the AVERAGE--they experience the REAL. The Navy has no credibility by playing this game and it will lose support in the years to come by taxpayers like myself.</p> <p>The Navy has committed a "taking" of private property by forever altering the quality of people's lives in their permanent and secondary/vacation homes, without paying for this taking. If people cannot enjoy living in their homes or visiting, they will abandon them, but lo and behold, there will be no buyers because the Navy will have created a dead zone for living. It is unbearable (and for some terrifying) when the jets fly. The Navy must reconsider the lives it is impacting by this proposal.</p> <p>Impacts to national park units, lands with resources set aside for the enjoyment of future generations, will be forever changed, which is unacceptable. The Navy should believe this is unacceptable. There are OTHER PLACES MORE APPROPRIATE for this kind of training. TAKE THIS TRAINING ELSEWHERE. Don't trivialize these impacts. The Navy will be criminals in the lives of many Americans if it proceeds. Make us proud, not shameful, of the Navy's efforts. And please don't tell us how to comment.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Lyngsoe-1	Protect marine life! Stop interfering!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Lyons D-1	<p>I am writing about the US Navy proposal for extensive training flights over the Olympic Peninsula, and continued/increased active sonar in the area of the National Marine Sanctuary.</p> <p>Sonar disturbance is not in keeping with the intent of a marine sanctuary. For decades, my family and I have hiked and camped in the Olympic Peninsula. I have great appreciation for the foresight our predecessors had in setting aside much of this area for wilderness protection, public stewardship, and recreational use. The beauty, peacefulness, and ecological diversity of this area is a treasured resource. Noise of the level and extent proposed unquestionably impacts the Olympic Peninsula, whose beauty and wilderness attributes draw people to Washington State from around the world. I have experienced Growler flyovers on the Olympic Peninsula and in the Cascades, and I had to stop what I was doing and put my hands over my ears to block to whatever degree I could the incredibly loud and powerful noise.</p> <p>Furthermore, I am concerned about the increased electromagnetic activity being proposed. I am aware that many people react adversely to heightened electromagnetic activity (this is a fact), and I cannot help but consider that the proposed activity may disrupt living things in and around the area (possibly including me as a visitor).</p> <p>Please continue to protect the diversity of life and wilderness now present in this rich resource we have in our state. Safeguard this resource from the high levels of noise pollution and electronic warfare activity the US Navy proposes. The No Action alternative is the only reasonable alternative. Maintain the environmental protection, ecological diversity, wilderness, and peacefulness for which the Olympic Peninsula is famous.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your dedication to the people of Washington and your protection of our treasured natural heritage.</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Lyons T-1	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Please cease all sonar testing in the Pacific Northwest. The Southern Resident orca population is endangered and whales are extremely sensitive to sound.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
<b>M</b>		
M-1	<p>The adequacy of the assessment of Tribal cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy's training and testing activities is especially important because these activities take place in the Pacific Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and is critically important for the wellbeing of all people and lifeforms on this planet.</p> <p>The Navy should work meaningfully with the Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <p>The Navy should prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals.</p> <p>The "best available science" referenced in the draft SEIS should be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTRC.</p> <p>The Navy's monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy should expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered.</p>	Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.	
Macdonald B-1	<p>Marine mammals, fish, crustaceans, and flora are at recognized danger from human activities as indicated by strandings, increasing death rates, diminished populations, varying marine desertification and extensive plastic pollution. These and other human/climatologist insults to our oceans lead to the distinct possibility of vast, irreversible damage to our ocean ecology.</p> <p>Whales, in particular are of immediate interest to all of us west coast residents. We've lost 70 Blues to the shore and probably ten times more to the briny deep – this year. We cannot even imagine the life of a giant communicative leviathan who hunts and communicates the breadth of the pacific; conversationally!</p> <p>This is inhumane insanity and must be fully evaluated by the public as to cost to the panet. It is an excessive ue of force against THE OCEAN AND PLANET WHICH IS UNNECESSARY AND NOT COST EFFECTIVE. It endangers our community and planet without due process.</p> <p>Requests: Reduce overall effort to 10%; reduce ordinance/throttle to10%; Experience: 9 months USM CTAD USS Spiegel Grove</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.</p>
Macdonald D-1	<p>It is an unconscionable transgression on Nation Park wilderness -- and its values to both people of all kinds and wildlife of all kinds -- to expand training flights over the Olympic Peninsula.</p> <p>Please rescind this proposal and find somewhere else -- if anywhere needs to be found at all -- for these exercises.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Macdonald J-1	Please eliminate sonar testing to protect whales and other marine creatures from proven negative impacts.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Macdonald L-1	I would like the NW Training and Testing Supplemental EIS Statement to address the substantial effect of the increased noise pollution to the well being of all marine mammals from increased training over the Olympic National Park, The Olympic Marine Sanctuary, and other sensitive areas. This increased noise level is unacceptable for an area that has been historically renowned as a quiet environment. I must insist the Navy addresses these concerns of a substantial noise pollution increase, and the plans for mitigation for the harmful affects of this in the EIS Statement.	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Macdonald M-1	Have you ever saw the beauty of a whale? Please stop your sonar testing, the waters are not ours to own. Please respect ALL living things.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Macdonald N-1	Stop the irreparable and catastrophic damage to marine animals!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record. The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Mack-1	Why do we continue to disrupt nature and the intelligent animals that we share our habitat with? Let's be more respectful of nature and the earth we share. Discontinue sonar testing period.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Macleod-1	I oppose the permit to "take" protected species within the training range of Navy operations. A recent, and much-publicized, report demonstrates that we are approaching the sixth great extinction, in which millions of species will cease to exist over the next few decades. America should be doing all it can to preserve what ecological diversity remains, not hastening it in the name of military exercises. In addition, Olympic National Park is one of the quietest places on earth; to bombard it with noise from the Growlers makes a travesty of our national policy to protect and preserve public lands for the enjoyment of all Americans. I oppose the relocation of all Growlers at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Madeleine-1	these military practices are absolutely unacceptable and harmful to sea life. please be respectful and stop this !	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Madigan-1	<p>According to government estimates, 138,500 whales and dolphins will soon be injured and probably killed along the east coast of the U.S. if exploration companies are allowed to use dangerous blasts of noise to search for offshore oil and gas. The Navy's own report states that more than 40 marine mammal species will be impacted, including the endangered humpback whale and the blue whale. Beautiful orca's, dolphins, and ocean life will be killed, in their Own Home, the oceans around the world because of senseless sonar testing. The powerful sonar blasts will destroy their hearing and even cause their brains to hemorrhage. Naval sonar has already led to mass whale strandings, as disoriented whales attempt to escape the noise.</p> <p>No Sonor Testing!!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Maeding-1	<p>I understand that the Navy needs to do trainings, but the impact on Marine wildlife from the testing of weapons and sonar is simply unacceptable. The information provided does not substantiate the trainings proposed. With current technology, surely Trainings can be restructured to be done without actually exploding weapons, or at least be done farther out in the ocean, well away from migrating species.</p> <p>It should be obvious that Marine life will be harmed with weapons testing without "backing up statements with explanations" and without being "as specific as possible" and without referring to page numbers and paragraphs"! The information event held at Dana Grey Elementary School in Ft Bragg California was a joke. One of the officials at the event told me that a bomb being exploded in the ocean would be only temporarily disorienting to marine life 'like us hearing a car backfire'. I pointed out that it would depend on how far from the explosion the marine life would be. The noise from a bomb exploding can damage ear drums and sound travels immense distances in water and is damaging and disorienting to all marine life, as is sonar as well.</p> <p>Weapons Trainings could be done through technology, perhaps in a virtual reality method or farther than 100 miles out at sea.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Maes-1	<p>I'm 100% against sonar testing. This is unacceptable.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Maes-2	No sonar testing!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Magliola-1	<p>The Olympic National Park and the surrounding US Forest Service Wilderness areas are no place for the Navy's Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT). The invasion of Growler supersonic jets in the airspace over Olympic National Park and Forest and their interaction with land-based electromagnetic radiation emitters based in Olympic National Forest poses serious threats to wildlife and visitors. Any proposed increase in military training activities within these areas is both unwarranted and unnecessary. Established training areas already exist within range of Whidbey NAS and elsewhere on the west coast.</p> <p>Olympic National Park is a special place: an ecologically diverse landscape, a refuge for plants and animals including threatened and endangered species, and a soundscape where human intrusions are minimal. This unique setting is threatened by the continued presence of the Navy's military exercises.</p> <p>Olympic National Park has been recognized as a UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site. In 2017, 3.4 million people visited Olympic National Park and countless others visited Olympic National Forest. Ninety five percent of Olympic National Park is designated wilderness and five areas within Olympic National Forest are designated wilderness. The designation of wilderness should insure that human intrusions are temporary and minimal. The frequent and incessant noise and pollution produced by Growler jets represents a serious threat to this wilderness and diminishes the human experience of wilderness. A visit to wilderness is a multisensory experience: you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch it. Exploring wilderness is more than just a physical challenge, it's a place for reflection, an escape from the modern world, and a source of</p>	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>renewal. This experience is severely threatened by the Navy's NWTT. The Navy's NWTT in the airspace over the Olympic Peninsula also impacts the communities and households that lie between Whidbey NAS and the training areas on the peninsula. As a resident of Sequim, Washington the almost daily appearance of Growler jets over my home intrudes on the natural soundscape. I retired to Sequim to escape crowding, pollution and noise and to position myself on the doorstep of a world-class wilderness. This is threatened by the Navy's NWTT. It appears to me that the decision to train here is more a matter of convenience than one of necessity. Other more appropriate training and testing areas are available to you. Please consider moving your military training off the Olympic Peninsula.</p>	
Mahon-1	<p>The beach is full of tourists, and the Navy EA-18 Growlers are flying non-stop. This is my home and Navy Growlers are transforming Port Townsend into a military zone. Tourists and guests hosted by Fort Worden are subjected to overwhelming sound and leave remembering fighter jets rather than Port Townsend. Jets fly in circles in the middle of the night so we make our beds in our living rooms with doors closed and white noise machines on. In summer, windows and doors are shut even when it's hot. Walking the beach can be impossible. With the introduction of the Navy Growler the Navy has changed the quality of our lives beyond imagining. The Prowlers were inconvenient, but they were not toxic and did not fly nearly as much as the Growlers are. After 33 years of living here our friends, whose children and grandchildren were born here, are leaving. Where to go? There is nowhere safe in Western Washington!</p> <p>The Olympic Peninsula has been overwhelmed by sound. Growlers have invaded the no fly zone of Olympic National Park because of Electromagnetic Warfare Training. After 20 years of hiking in the silence of the natural world, I have recorded them on the Sol Duc, Hoh and Elwha rivers. In 2016 they flew continuously through our 5 day hike. At Hurricane Ridge they accompanied our ranger guided snowshoe tours the past 2 years. Last week at LaPush jets flew the entire afternoon over the Bogachiel, Quileute and Sol Duc rivers as my husband fished. At beaches 1,2 and 3 whales and calves and hikers were tormented from 9 am to 5pm for our 4 days there. I was told they buzz native fishermen in their boats and don't worry about disturbing whales. Every time I have been in the Olympics these last 5 years Growlers have been flying. The wildlife is being impacted, both on land and in the sea.</p> <p>The noise is overwhelming! The sound levels that have been submitted by the navy are erroneous and do not reflect actual levels that I and others</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>have recorded up to 115 decibels, which are well over the 85 decibels that cause permanent hearing loss. And then there is the sound in the seas where weapons are being tested that impact the creatures of the ocean that are already significantly stressed by ocean acidification and global warming with its impact on food sources. The current levels of acceptable casualties for ocean and land wildlife have no justification when hundreds of whales died this year due to starvation and other causes.</p> <p>We need your help! Protect Washington State, the Northwest region, ocean creatures and wildlife from being collateral damage. Increased military training by land and sea are not acceptable. 36 more jets and plans to increase flights from 6,100 to 23,700 per year for a total of 280 days a year, 80 percent from outlying field Coupeville, will destroy our community. Noisy Growlers flying all hours, night and day over the Olympic Peninsula devastate the most amazing natural environment I know.</p> <p>Protect Washington State from losing its reputation as a great place to live and an amazing vacation destination. Please mitigate sound, minimize flights, and safeguard our economic base by flying away from populated areas and National Parks. A good neighbor takes care of neighbors. There are choices for less populated areas. It is inconvenient for the Navy to locate flights somewhere less populated. More fuel, trainees spend more time flying. But the financial cost to the Navy will be a fraction of the cost to the Olympic Peninsula and neighboring communities, to the creatures of the sea and land that these decisions are devastating.</p>	
Mahon-2	<p>The beach is full of tourists, and the Navy EA-18 Growlers are flying non-stop. This is my home and Navy Growlers are transforming Port Townsend into a military zone. Tourists and guests hosted by Fort Worden are subjected to overwhelming sound and leave remembering fighter jets rather than Port Townsend. Jets fly in circles in the middle of the night so we make our beds in our living rooms with doors closed and white noise machines on. In summer, windows and doors are shut even when it's hot. Walking the beach can be impossible. With the introduction of the Navy Growler the Navy has changed the quality of our lives beyond imagining. The Prowlers were inconvenient, but they were not toxic and did not fly nearly as much as the Growlers are. After 33 years of living here our friends, whose children and grandchildren were born here, are leaving. Where to go? There is nowhere safe in Western Washington!</p> <p>The Olympic Peninsula has been overwhelmed by sound. Growlers have invaded the no fly zone of Olympic National Park because of Electromagnetic Warfare Training. After 20 years of hiking in the silence of</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>the natural world, I have recorded them on the Sol Due, Hoh and Elwha rivers. In 2016 they flew continuously through our 5 day hike. At Hurricane Ridge they accompanied our ranger guided snowshoe tours the past 2 years. Last week at La Push jets flew the entire afternoon over the Bogachiel, Quileute and Sol Due rivers as my husband fished. At beaches 1,2 and 3 whales and calves and hikers were tormented from 9am to 5pm for our 4 days there. I was told they buzz native fishermen in their boats and don't worry about disturbing whales. Every time I have been in the Olympics these last 5 years Growlers have been flying. The wildlife is being impacted, both on land and in the sea.</p> <p>The noise is overwhelming! The sound levels that have been submitted by the navy are erroneous and do not reflect actual levels that I and others have recorded up to 115 decibels, which are well over the 85 decibels that cause permanent hearing loss. And then there is the sound in the, seas where weapons are being tested that impact the creatures of the ocean that are already significantly stressed by ocean acidification and global warming with its impact on food sources. The current levels of acceptable casualties for ocean and land wildlife have no justification when hundreds of whales died this year due to starvation and other causes.</p> <p>We need your help! Protect Washington State, the Northwest region, ocean creatures and wildlife from being collateral damage. Increased military training by land and sea are not acceptable. 36 more jets and plans to increase flights from 6,100 to 23,700 per year for a total of 280 days a year, 80 percent from outlying field Coupeville, will destroy our community. Noisy Growlers flying all hours, night and day over the Olympic Peninsula devastate the most amazing natural environment I know.</p> <p>Protect Washington State from losing its reputation as a great place to live and an amazing vacation destination. Please mitigate sound, minimize flights, and safeguard our economic base by flying away from populated areas and National Parks. A good neighbor takes care of neighbors. There are choices for less populated areas. It is inconvenient for the Navy to locate flights somewhere less populated. More fuel, trainees spend more time flying. But the financial cost to the Navy will be a fraction of the cost to the Olympic Peninsula and neighboring communities, to the creatures of the sea and land that these decisions are devastating.</p>	
Maione-1	<p>To whom it SHOULD concern,</p> <p>In this day &amp; age, there are multiple ways to train, using simulators. The obsession with blowing things up and using active sonar in &amp; around migration path of whales &amp; dolphins is archaic &amp; unnecessary.</p>	<p>The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	County of Mendocino is for NO ACTION OPTION Move training 100 miles from coast NO ACTIVE SONAR We STAND with TRIBAL concerns NO LIVE EXPLOSIVE NO CHEMICAL Contamination NO OCEAN POLLUTION PUBLIC NEEDS microphone	(Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.  All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Mala-1	Living in Oak Bay, BC the sound from your testing is affecting my health. I have MS and the loud pitch sound of these aircrafts creates massive headaches and causes my hearing to blackout out often. I now have to make sure when I am outside that I wear ear plugs to help drown out the sound just in case you decide to test. This often works to no avail. This is so inconsiderate and shame on you.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Oak Bay. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Also, see Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources) for an analysis of the Navy's proposed activities on tourism and other socioeconomic resources. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Malcolm K-1	Were the Growler airplanes created to make as much noise as possible, to scare our enemies? Their engines do Not need to be THIS loud for US. For the quiet area that they are practicing in, they need to have mufflers installed, or their engines reworked to eliminate their excessive noise volume. Why wasn't that done before moving a whole new batch of planes here? Why can't that be done now? We are a former foster family who has been doing respite for a family that adopted our last foster child. We specialized in drug affected/special needs children. We can no longer have any special needs child in our home due to the extreme noise that the Growlers make. We used to have a child here during spring vacations, and all summer, to provide the much needed time away from care giving their family needs. These children cannot handle this type of extreme volume, they feel it to their bones, and it affects them for Days afterwards!!! They can't eat properly, they can't sleep properly either. When a Growler flies overhead at 10 pm, like it did the other night, if we had a child here, I would have been up all night trying to calm them down. When I am gardening or otherwise outside, when they fly overhead on a low cloud day, it hurts my ears, what do you think it does to small children?	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	To animals? Shame on the Navy for being such a bad neighbor!!! Please either move them to a less populated area, or put mufflers on them. This is ridiculous. We were a good foster family, and the Navy has ruined dozens of children's lives by not allowing us to care for them in our home.	
Malcolm M-1	The Southern Resident orcas are already on the brink of extinction. They're starving. Chinook runs are at historic lows. Please explore all other options before testing sonar that will further endanger them! Remember how important they are to this region and our country, please!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Malizia-1	The Navy has already done so much damage to the sound's marine life, water health. We already are constantly warned about swimming or eating seafood from the area because of the sewage you dump. Your sonar gets used in places you've been told not to, harming the whales and other sonar reliant species. You're a <i>[expletive deleted]</i> show. Stop it. Just stop it	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Mallow-1	I do not support the the Navy harming marine life.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Malone I-1	<p>Can the Navy be sure that all types of marine life will not be harmed by the proposed Northwest Training and Testing? There is a very fragile situation on our coast now.</p> <p>Will the SEIS use explosives and SONAR, which have been proved to be detrimental to marine animals?</p> <p>NOAA is currently involved in a study of the die-off on gray whales and the disruption of the ocean by sonar and explosive activity should be halted.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Malone J-1	<p>Really cannot believe we are having this discussion, given the stats we have on the catastrophic impact of navy activities on marine life. Refer to United Nations reports on our ailing planet, to headlines in our beached and ailing marine life, and give us a reason why we would not immediately ban this Navy testing in waters where a resident pod of orcas are struggling to survive. Surely we can think better, do better.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Mancuso J-1	These Orcas need to be protected. Please reconsider doing the test.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Mancuso M-1	Please, for the love of this earth and all things that live on it, stop the sonar testing in the Salish Sea! Orcas are an integral part of the ocean and are already endangered due to humans. Let's not make it worse for them! There is hope...a new baby Orca has joined the Southern Resident Orcas! Let's give this baby a chance to grow up and make more Orcas! We need them just as much as they need us. We only have one ocean...it is not unlimited in it's resources. We need to be more cognizant of the damage we do here. Don't make it worse for the creatures that live in it.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Mandelstein-1	<p>I am writing to request that all sonar testing in the Puget Sound be halted immediately. Reasons include:</p> <p>Over seven years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters could experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations.</p> <p>Sonar would cause those porpoises permanent hearing loss 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" — anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound — 101,377 times, according to the estimate.</p> <p>"It may be something that distracts the animal from normal activities, such as feeding or reproduction," Mosher said.</p> <p>Many of these animals could be exposed to sonar multiple times. A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters.</p> <p>Dozens of other creatures in the Salish Sea would be affected in lesser numbers, including endangered southern resident killer whales, which the Navy predicts would exhibit behavioral responses about 15 times over seven years. The documents say endangered humpback whales in waters off California, Oregon and Washington would suffer temporary hearing loss 277 times and alter their behavior 221 times because of sonar.</p> <p>"For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival."</p> <p>PS: While I live in California, I visit the Puget Sound regularly and the safety of the ocean life there is very important to me and all my friends who do live in the Puget Sound area.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Mangone-1	<p>Sonar testing needs to be stopped! Why has the navy ignored years of important research on the the sonar testings ill effects to marine animals? How these animals communicate, migrate, hunt for food etc is being impacted by this testing not to mention the sheer torture of it all! How is this not more important than anything?! It's truly shameful what the navy is being allowed to do.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Mann Che-1	<p>I am a resident in Port Townsend and I hear the Growlers so often - that it interrupts my daily living. For instance, I was talking to a friend who lives in Coupeville and our conversation was completely covered over by jet noise. We had to make three attempts to make a simple phone call (which was important - dealing with a medical situation) in order to cover the</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island or Ebey's Reserve. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>necessary information. I was a substitute at a local school and several times one day the noise was distracting - I had to repeat my directions and/or stop until the noise was over.</p> <p>*Education for our children on the Peninsula is compromised!</p> <p>*Important communication is interrupted and/or needs to be repeated by the Jet noise.</p> <p>Dungeness Spit: More often than not, when enjoying the Olympic National Park or walking on the Spit, there are Growlers flying really low - the intensity of the sound is somewhat frightening. I have a noise meter and I am tracking the incidents and they are on the increase. Increased noise over the Olympic National Park threatens its status as a UNESCO World heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>Economic Compromise: The U.S. has a tradition of setting aside lands for public enjoyment. Public enjoyment is inconsistent with the purposes of a military installation conducting warfare exercises. Pacific Northwest reserves, parks, and monuments provide home for birds, mammals, and marine life. Migration patterns, mating habits, and feeding patterns are disturbed by noise from the Growlers. The presence of the Growlers conflicts with an important mission of the National Parks Service to preserve the soundscape of parks.</p> <p>Legal Process: Forty years ago, the community on Whidbey made the decision to protect Ebey's Reserve; property owners gave up their developmental rights. Allowing military jets unlimited access to the airspace above the Reserve diminishes the significance of this community treasure. Everything is threatened when Growlers fly 300-600 feet overhead! Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that adverse effects on historic properties must be avoided, minimized or mitigated. While weakening or not recognizing the outright damage from intense low frequency vibrations from the Growlers is virtually guaranteed with 100 flights on busy training days. Section 106 requirement is totally dismissed. Navy terminated negotiations last November.</p> <p>Water!!!: Property values in Oak Harbor, Coupeville and quite frankly all of Whidbey are compromised! Prospective buyers fear that the noise will only increase and the water compromised!</p> <p>The increase in jet noise is making a negative impact on Tourism, wildlife, property values, education, basic communication (phone) and Orca survival! Enough is enough!</p> <p>The action by the Navy does not honor public process and our irreplaceable natural resources, and must be rejected! The decision to single site all</p>	<p>Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Also, see Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources) for an analysis of the Navy's proposed activities on tourism and other socioeconomic resources. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Growlers in Puget Sound, Olympic Peninsula, Whidbey Island...is for convenience! Move and share those trainings with other parts of the Northwest! Please!	
Mann Chr-1	Look, I as an American appreciate the new technology and advances your military sector uses to keep us safe, but at WHAT cost to mother nature and the planet? Your testing WILL further the destruction of our sea life and our FOOD supply we get from the seas. When one harm's or destroys a part of the environment, an irreversible chain reaction starts that can not be undone. We humans are part of Earth, and when we keep going at the rate of which your harmful testing is surly going to help exaggerate, there will be nothing OR no one left to protect by 20 years time..... please, THINK.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Mann H-1	We need to stop the harmful encroaching into the living space of other entities on this planet. If a practice is unnecessary to the survival of one species while quantifiably harming another, there is no justifiable reason to keep engaging the practice.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Mantia-1	Please don't use sonar!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Maragos-1	There is no need in today's world to do this,all you are doing is killing the sea life & we can't afford that,we need sea life to sustain our human life,with out it we will not exist,please stop these needless experiments.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Maravel-1	Please protect them	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Marcus-1	I just moved from the Mendocino Coast to Washington. The coast has been a stunning area, full of migrating whales, many varieties of fish and sea creatures. Looking through binoculars to try to stop abusive and damaging	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	sounds to these creatures is very ineffective. I am very much against this study.	<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Mariette-1	This is cruaaty against animals. We shouldn't accept that, what ever is the reason. People Who thinks That researching is a good reason should be treated the same way they treats animals.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Marinelli-1	È incredibile come il genere umano continui a perpetrare azioni distruttive che hanno il solo risultato di confermare la sua crudele stupidità. Non è mai abbastanza? Non vi sembra il caso di cessare questa tortura nei confronti di poveri mammiferi marini?!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Marini-1	Work meaningfully with Pacific coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life.	<p>The Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.</p> <p>As stated in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the term "traditional resources" is used to encompass protected tribal resources.</p>
Marini-2	Expand prohibited activities in the 50-mile mitigation area to include use of sonar.	<p>Training and testing with active sonar is essential to national security. The Navy uses active sonar during military readiness activities only when it is essential to training missions or testing program requirements since active sonar has the potential to alert opposing forces to the operating platform's presence. Passive sonar and other available sensors are used in concert with active sonar to the maximum extent practicable. The Navy will implement procedural mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals wherever and whenever activities occur in the Study Area. In addition to procedural mitigation, the Navy developed mitigation areas to further avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals in important habitat areas. For example, the Navy will restrict certain activities or types of sonar year-round within 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, seasonally within the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area and Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area, and year-round in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area to help the Navy avoid potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals in important foraging and migration areas. Additional mitigation for active sonar (e.g., prohibiting sonar within 50 NM from shore) would be impractical to implement for the reasons described in the Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) and Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar).</p>
Marini-3	Monitoring program be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels.	<p>The Navy understands there may be limitations of the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act protecting cultural and spiritual resources. The Navy's monitoring program does address impacts beyond the potential for harm at the population level. The Navy uses cutting edge</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		research to improve the science in a number of areas, including marine mammal densities, species occurrence, exposure and response, and habitat use. The Navy has consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the resulting mitigation measures achieve the least practicable adverse impact. The Navy is committed to continual good faith consultations in the context of the government-to-government relationships, which endures beyond consultations limited to a specific law or project.
Marini-4	Expand the list of environmental “stressors” to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections.	The Navy acknowledges the spiritual connections, as stated in Section 3.10.1 (Affected Environment) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, “Sociocultural elements, such as traditions, lifeways, religious practices, community values, and social institutions may be considered by some groups to be types of cultural resources, especially within tribal communities whose traditional interaction with the natural world is integral to their culture. However, the Navy has completed this Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS within the framework of NEPA, providing impacts as determined using the best available science. As stated in Section 3.10.1, this supplement is organized “to consider cultural and historic elements of the human environment within and between the three following sections: Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.11 (American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources), and Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). Combined, these sections seek to provide a full analysis of the potential impacts from the Proposed Action on sociocultural elements of American Indian/Alaska Native communities and American history.” The Navy acknowledges that some of its activities may impact cultural or spiritual resources.
Marini-5	The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should also be considered in the SEIS.	The Navy discusses ocean acidification in the context of climate change in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) and 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality) of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and includes information from scientific studies conducted since 2015. The Navy acknowledged in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) that “metals tend to dissociate” in more acidic ocean conditions. The Navy added a reference back to these two sections in the sections analyzing the impacts of explosives (Section 3.1.4.1) and metals (Section 3.1.4.2). Note that corrosion can also act to insulate ordnance and other metal items from contact with seawater and sediments, slowing or even halting further corrosion and movement of metals into the adjacent sediments and water column. The effects of climate change on the ocean environment, particularly effects specific to a particular region like ocean waters in the Pacific Northwest, continue to be researched and to evolve and are not necessarily

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>predictable. For example, as described in Section 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality), increases in ocean acidity are believed to reduce the availability of carbonate in the water column, which is needed by organisms to generate calcium carbonate structures. However, increases in sea surface temperature associated with climate change appear to stimulate calcification at an even greater rate, essentially overriding the inhibiting effects of lower pH levels and leading to unexpected high abundance of cocolithophores (which build protective scales from calcium carbonate) in some ocean regions.</p>
Marino-1	<p>I am against testing of any weaponry offshore along any coast. It is detrimental to all lifeforms and pollutes the ocean water as well. Rather than pour our tax monies into more weaponry/arms/ammunitions, use it to develop ways to reduce CO2 emissions, pollution of air, water and land and reduce killing of humans and animal life and other life forms. Climate action and saving life on Earth is more important.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Markham-1	<p>It is totally unacceptable to subject Cetaceans and other Marine life to the high levels of sound during sonar. tests. It is known that this causes extreme pain and damage. A deaf Cetacean is unable to exist if it is subjected to this high level of disturbance. Please stop all testing the SR Orcas are seen swimming away from these intense sounds in the video clearly in great distress. Marine mammals including the endangered remaining 76 Southern Resident Orcas are at great risk.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Marks-1	<p>I urge you to deny this Project entirely, thus choosing the No Action Alternative. (I do want to let you know that I appreciate the fact that you actually included a No Project Alternative as I have seen so many EISs</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>without a No Project Alternative over the years.)</p> <p>There certainly should not be any increase in the number of Growler planes passing over the Olympic Peninsula, Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary offshore in the Pacific Ocean, and Strait of Juan de Fuca. In fact, all Growler planes should be phased out of these areas, and the US Navy should use its brains and resources to find other more remote, unpopulated, non-wilderness areas to do this testing.</p> <p>It's perfectly obvious that no severe noise and/or air vibrations and pollutions should be allowed over a National Park. The distractions and actual harms they will cause to wildlife and recreationers (tourists) in the Park detract significantly from what the NPS is trying to protect as a natural environment in its Parks. Increased noise over the ONP threatens its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>The Olympic Peninsula is a jewel in the state of WA for residents and tourists alike. Because of its scenic beauty, it creates jobs for residents who work in the tourist trades. The 4 small towns out here at the NW corner of the Olympic Peninsula have had an increase in unemployment since the logging businesses dwindled, and citizens, residents, and taxpayers need tourism jobs to make ends meet and raise their families. If Growler planes were to be passing over regularly, the tourist trade would fall off significantly and local residents' incomes and well-being would be seriously affected. Nobody out here wants these planes passing overhead, period.</p> <p>It is highly likely (and you have received scientific comments about this) that flying low over the ocean and strait also will disturb wildlife in our water environments. The local Southern Resident Orea pods are immediately endangered this very summer, and there should be no increased stress on Orcas or their Salmon allowed. The latest news in the public media reports existential information on Gray Whales, mammals who migrate north and south through the ocean waters off the coast of WA, OR, and CA. Gray Whales are dying off on the beaches of CA, OR, and WA this spring from starvation. Both high and low frequency noise have negative impacts on whales' ability to navigate and identify food. This negative impact exists for both Orcas and Gray Whales. There should be no additional stress on the Gray Whale population out here off the NW coast of WA at this time, and I'm sure you have heard about this from scientists in detail.</p> <p>It has been reported that your Agency already is not in compliance with some of your own current regulations with regard to Growler planes on Whidbey Island. You should not be promoting any increase in the number</p>	<p>where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island or Ebey's Reserve. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Also, see Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources) for an analysis of the Navy's proposed activities on tourism and other socioeconomic resources. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>of these flights unless these problems are completely remedied and, until they are remedied, all Growler flights off Whidbey Island should stop.</p> <p><u>Site of Project</u> Whidbey Island is an inappropriate site for training program like this. The Navy itself indicates that at least 2,000 unsettled acres are preferable to conduct the Growler training program. Currently, the Navy is in violation of its own safety standards by doing these Growler training missions over 664 acres of populated land on Whidbey Island.</p> <p><u>Single siting</u> Single siting of any military function is a violation of the Technical Joint Cross Service Group guidelines. Your Growler Project plans should cease to be on Whidbey Island alone, and you should be including another Alternative whereby this training program will be located at at least two geographically separated sites, each of which would have similar combination of technologies and functions. Please ensure that you answer this noncompliance issue in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p><u>Noise level</u> Real-time measurements taken at Ebey's Reserve near Coupeville show damaging levels of noise, up to 115 decibels -well past the 85-decibel level that begins to cause permanent hearing loss (NIH). Residential areas should not be exposed to these hearing-loss decibels.</p> <p><u>Runway length</u> The 5,400-foot runway, built prior to 1943 to accommodate aircraft built in the 1940s, is nearly 3,500 feet too short for Growler jet "touch and go" operations, which require 8,800 feet. This runway cannot be extended. For 32 years, the runway has failed to meet Navy runway safety standards. This too-short take-off and landing runway exposes pilots, expensive planes, and adjacent residents to unacceptable dangers. Please ensure that you answer this noncompliance issue in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>Please respond to these documented noncompliances in your Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Have they been remedied? If so, how and when? If not, please admit the truth about these noncompliances of the Navy in this Growler Project, and at the least deny this Project because of unacceptable continuances/expansions of noncompliances.</p> <p>I have had personal experiences with the noise disturbances of Growler planes in my home environment. I live 2 blocks from the hospital in Port Angeles near the water. Several times when I was out in the back yard tending to raised veggie gardens - enjoying the sun and fresh air, chirping of birds, and quiet neighborhood - my peace and quiet were very noticeably interrupted by a Growler plane passing overhead nearby. The low rumbling cannot be ignored and, for some reason, is ominous - like a growling tiger. But even more significant is the fact that the birds stopped</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>chirping while these planes were in my neighborhood. To me, this is adequate proof that Growler planes disturb wildlife significantly. Another incident of atmospheric interference in my area was one time when I felt my old, small, stucco house and my bed actually tremble when the Growler plane went over. Whatever kind of waves caused these disturbances are unacceptable to me in a residential neighborhood, and I don't want Growler planes going over Port Angeles anymore.</p> <p>There is organized and formidable opposition to this Growler Project. The Sound Defense Alliance is composed of 15 scientific, environmental, health, etc. organizations. It's for sure this broad citizens' and scientists' organization will sue to stop this project should you make the mistake of trying to push it on through in spite of all the opposition by all of us out here. You must know of the resources, both knowledge and legal, that members of the SDA have to stop Projects that significantly destroy our natural environments. Think some more to design other alternatives to get your testing done. The SDA suggests spreading the Growler jets around the US rather than have them all on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound WA. I urge you to consider this as a good compromise choice and to cease promoting the Project of this particular EIS.</p>	
Marquis-1	<p>Testing sonar in the ocean is detrimental to marine life. Whales, orcas, and dolphins are especially harmed and sometimes killed. Please stop.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Marrs-1	<p>I am writing in regards to your (The Navy's) EIS/OEIS Draft and Growler operations in the Olympic National Forest. The operations you are currently carrying out and are proposing are being done in an inappropriate place. A place of peace and of quiet. Your plans and actions are not compatible with our Olympic National Park. You have other areas in which to train. According to your own analysis, training in the Olympics is a nonessential convenience. For your nonessential convenience you are and will inconvenience a large number of people and wildlife. Not to mention those who's economy and livelihoods depend on the area without the presence of one of the loudest</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>planes flying. You downplay and dismiss anything or damage that you may or will cause.</p> <p>I respect the Navy, but that being said, respect is a two way street. Your disrespect for us begins in this case with the post card placed in the post office in Forks, WA. announcing your intent to train in the park. Even though you were all ready training. Your pressuring of the Forest Service to rollover and grant you a permit. Ahh America is this what we have become? I believe that the permit should not of been issued. That it violates the Forest Services own Mission Statement. Their own employees feel the same as they are suing their employer.</p> <p>The fact that over Four thousand people took-the time to comment to the Forest Service. All but thirty something in opposition to your wants. You are not listening. The Olympic Peninsula has been my home for just short of forty years. It is a special and rare place. The impacts of your nonessential convenience will be felt long after you've moved on.</p> <p>I am feeling the Navy's disregards for those they call neighbors. The last meeting I attended in Port Angeles Had many beautiful pamphlets and brochures available. They put a halo around you. Studies and statistics are very malleable when done by those that want something. They Can paint and frame the issue in a way to receive what they are after. Land developer are experts at this. They have to use their own money when you've got ours!</p> <p>I feel the meetings I've attended have been to tell us what you are going to do. A recent meeting I attended was put on by the Washington State Chamber of Commerce. They were gathering ideas for a guide for how the public can work and get along with the Navy. This is so backwards. Turn that around. We are the people that support ALL of this. We are being pushed into a corner for your nonessential convenience.</p> <p>Want respect? Than give it! Want support? Give It! The sound Of Growlers is not the sound of freedom. It seem in this case to be a whole lot more like a loud middle finger to the Peninsula for your nonessential convenience.</p>	<p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Marsh-1	<p>I oppose all sonar and explosives use because it has long been established that this has fatal results for sea life, including whales and dolphins. The human race is hard at work destroying the oceans with plastics, pollution, and your sonar and explosives, posing an existential threat to human life. Isn't security supposed to be your job? Your activities are threatening the security of the nation and the planet.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Marshall-1	I am 100% against underwater Sonic testing. The effects on marine life are unacceptable.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Martensen-1	This was the worst format possible for the information that needed to be exchanged. Very difficult to hear and very disorganized.	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Martin Ca-1	I live on southern Vancouver Island, in greater Victoria. For years now the sound of the growler jets has been a regular - and disruptive - presence. I am writing to let you know the effect of training flights in my community. The sound disturbs and worries humans, increasing stress, and is frightening to household pets, especially dogs, causing visible distress. The tranquility and peace of our beautiful community is interrupted. Please do NOT expand the training program - your impact may not be seen by the US military, but it is felt by your neighbours in Canada.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Martin Co-1	Hasnt there been enough damage done to the environment yet? Please check your priorities	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Martin D-1	<p>I have lived on the Mendocino Coast for the last 40 years. I am writing to ask you to stop testing in the waters off the West Coast until further studies are enacted to address issues that are urgent.</p> <p>I have lived on the coast of California all of my life. I have swimmied, surfed and kayaked in the Ocean since I was a child. I have fished in the surf, out at sea commercially and have harvested sea weed, rock picked abalone and fed my family from the waters of the Pacific. The changes I've seen in the last 20 years have been frightening.</p> <p>We now have massive die offs of marine mammals. We have wrecks of sea birds. We have collapses of fish species.</p> <p>Sonar has been proven to disrupt and damage the delicate hearing of whales, dolphins and orcas. The sound travels up to 300 miles in the oceans. There is video documenting of the chaos and disruption that sonar creates in sea mammals. They are instantly deafened. How can you accommodate, heal, protect them from your sonar? It is harming much more than your projected incidental take that you cite. How will you address that?</p> <p>What effect does the toxic by products caused by the expended munitions have on sea species? How does that, and the sonar, affect the krill and the other smaller sea life that are so important to the food chain?</p> <p>How will you address the effects the noise has on sea going birds? Murres are known to be affected by acoustic transmitters. What will the effect of much louder, deafening sonar have on them?</p> <p>The kelp forests are decimated, we can no longer take abalone, can you unequivocally say your testing does not affect these?</p> <p>How will you address these issues—not with old (1984) studies, but with current information?</p> <p>I was told at the presentation in Ft. Bragg, California that you want to test off the Mendocino/Humboldt coasts because our geography resembles the South China Sea and N. Korea!?! So, in addition to toxic, invasive testing, you are engaging in war games. Please address this issue.</p>	<p>All of the issues raised in the comment are addressed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences).</p>
Martin L-1	<p>I am a resident of nearby Sonoma County with a family home on the beach. I am also a paying tourist along this coastline in Mendocino County. It would be a travesty to do these tests in our local ecosystem where it will do massive damage to animal communities, leak toxins into our water and affect local businesses and people. We do not want this testing done here.</p> <p>There has also been utter disrespect by the Navy toward local indigenous people who have had to stand up for this coastline.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Martinez D-1	<p>Usually during this time of year I see, daily, a least two pairs of Mother and calf gray whales swimming close to the coast. This year I haven't seen any. I have attending the Navy's public meeting and a read a lot of the draft SEIS. I don't believe the SEIS accurately states our Ocean's current state and the state of it's inhabitants. The Ocean ecosystems are in collapse. Sea creatures are starving. Just in the last month there have been over 70 dead Grey Whales washed ashore on West Coast. How many dead whales are still out there or have been eaten by other creatures?</p> <p>Will the SEIS address the 70+ whale deaths on the West Coast so far this year, that represent only 10% of the actual loss and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation? How will the SEIS address the Wildlife Emergency just announced by NOAA?</p> <p><a href="https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/">https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a></p> <p>A recent Study published in January 2019 documents the severe effect sonar has on whales.</p> <p><a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a></p> <p>Scientific studies have shown, without a doubt, that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, 'listening' is as important as 'seeing' is for humans, as they live in a world of water and sound. Noise pollution threatens whale and dolphin populations, interrupting their normal behavior, driving them away from areas important to their survival and at worst injuring or sometimes even causing the deaths of some whales and dolphins.</p> <p>3.4-107 of the SEIS states that Gray whales in Baja abandoned an historical breeding ground due to an increase in noise and shipping activity.</p> <p>Until NOAA's study of the die off on the Gray Whales is complete shouldn't any disruption of the Ocean by Sonar and Explosive activity should be</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. As described in Section 5.2.1 (Procedural Mitigation Development), the Navy's analysis assumes that due to limitations such as those mentioned in the comment, Lookouts will not be 100% effective at detecting all individual marine mammals.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Climate change is addressed in the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS in Section 3.2.3.2 (Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change).</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>halted?</p> <p>The SEIS at 3.4-135 acknowledges that Gray whale are slow moving and sometimes exhibit “snorkeling activity,” they surface quietly and exhale without of any visible blow.</p> <p>The Navy claims they have lookouts watching for whales before the use of sonar and explosives and are “very unlikely” to have their feeding and migration impacted by the Navy’s activities.</p> <p>How does the SEIS take into account this “snorkeling” and fog and rough seas in watching for whales?</p> <p>The SEIS details the presence of gray whales in six of the NWTT areas for short periods and claims that the gray whales have “low risk” of being impacted. How much risk is acceptable given NOAA’s Wildlife Emergency?</p> <p>The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that “military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor”. At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that “for the most part,” this material will be incidentally ingested by bottom feeders. Gray Whales are bottom feeders. Given the already stressed gray whale population should the SEIS take this into account?</p> <p><a href="https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/">https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/</a></p> <p>NATIONAL SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>The Pentagon Issued its own finding in 2015 outlining the security effects of Climate Change and issued orders that, all combatant commands integrate climate-related impacts into their planning cycles,</p> <p><a href="https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710/">https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710/</a></p> <p>Will the SEIS address the how the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will contribute to the threat to our national security and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbate this situation?</p> <p>Climate Change is fluid and getting worse all the time. The draft SEIS does not integrate current climate -related impacts</p>	
Martinez D-2	<p>TRIBAL CONCERNS</p> <p>The Navy is mandated to work meaningfully with Pacific Coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <p>Will the SEIS expand prohibited activities in the 50-mile mitigation area to</p>	<p>Training and testing with active sonar is essential to national security. The Navy uses active sonar during military readiness activities only when it is essential to training missions or testing program requirements since active sonar has the potential to alert opposing forces to the operating platform’s presence. Passive sonar and other available sensors are used in concert with active sonar to the maximum extent practicable. The Navy will implement</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>include use of sonar. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals?</p> <p>Should the "best available science" referenced in the Draft SEIS be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge?</p> <p>Will the SEIS expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing?</p>	<p>procedural mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals wherever and whenever activities occur in the Study Area. In addition to procedural mitigation, the Navy developed mitigation areas to further avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals in important habitat areas. For example, the Navy will restrict certain activities or types of sonar year-round within 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, seasonally within the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area and Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area, and year-round in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area to help the Navy avoid potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals in important foraging and migration areas. Additional mitigation for active sonar (e.g., prohibiting sonar within 50 NM from shore) would be impractical to implement for the reasons described in the Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) and Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar).</p> <p>The Navy acknowledges the spiritual connections, as stated in Section 3.10.1 (Affected Environment) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, "Sociocultural elements, such as traditions, lifeways, religious practices, community values, and social institutions may be considered by some groups to be types of cultural resources, especially within tribal communities whose traditional interaction with the natural world is integral to their culture. However, the Navy has completed this Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS within the framework of NEPA, providing impacts as determined using the best available science. As stated in Section 3.10.1, this supplement is organized "to consider cultural and historic elements of the human environment within and between the three following sections: Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.11 (American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources), and Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). Combined, these sections seek to provide a full analysis of the potential impacts from the Proposed Action on sociocultural elements of American Indian/Alaska Native communities and American history." The Navy acknowledges that some of its activities may impact cultural or spiritual resources.</p>
Martinez R-1	Stop sonar testing	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Marty-1	Please stop using sonar it's causing the whales distress and injury. There must be something else you could use.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Marx B-1	Thank you	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Marx J-1	<p>Climate Change Impacts</p> <p>The numerous training and testing events involve ships, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and land vehicles. The sheer number of these fossil fuel driven vehicles will emit a significant amount of CO2 and other pollutants contributing to global warming. According to Table 3.2-15 Preferred Alternative 1 will contribute 166,406 metric tons per year of CO2 equivalents. This in addition to increased Growler training flights off of Whidbey Island and other local activities not connected with these specific training and testing events. It is unconscionable to ignore the total greenhouse effects of all these actions in regards to our greatest threat, climate change. These cumulative activities should be addressed.</p> <p>Forest Fire Threat</p> <p>The Growler's F-18 airframe is one of the most accident-prone military airframes in existence. Between 1980 and 2014, the F-18 sustained 39 accidents; 22 crashes of the EA-18G and F/A-18 E, F have occurred since 2000. The F-18 Super Hornet platform has a mishap rate well above the average of all military aircraft, including two serious mishaps involving EA-18G Growlers, since December of 2016. (<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_F-18_accidents_and_incidents">wikipedia.org/wiki/List of</a></p>	<p>Climate change, as a cumulative impact was analyzed in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and referred to in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>Regarding aircraft mishaps, non-anticipated accidents or emergencies are not included in the NEPA analysis.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>accidents_and_incidents_involving_military_aircraft_ (2000–09) (<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_accidents_and_incidents_involving_military_aircraft_ (2010%E2%80%93present)">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_accidents_and_incidents_involving_military_aircraft_ (2010%E2%80%93present)</a>)</p> <p>With the number of proposed aircraft flights over the Olympic National Park and National Forest lands a jet crash would be a disaster. These are rainforests with a heavy fuel load and steep inaccessible terrain. Fighting a fire in a rainforest is extremely challenging. The tree tops rarely catch fire due to their density and moisture. Heavy moss and lichens provide the tinder and keep the fires near the ground. The forest canopy is so thick that dumping water does not penetrate. There are locations where the depth of the mineral soils precludes digging fire-lines.</p> <p>This potential hazard is not addressed in the EIS even though the Navy fire fighters likely have little or no experience in fighting a rainforest fire. This is not the type of terrain over which you should be conducting constant flights without a plan to meet this threat. There are better locations with flatter and open terrain rather than risk our treasured and valuable resources.</p>	
Marx J-2	<p>As a citizen who is affected by the NWTT activities I protest these open house "dog and pony shows" consisting of exhibits and handouts presenting only the Navy's plan. Most government entities require a recorded hearing in which the public can ask questions and respond to an applicant's comments. Proposals with this extensive an impact require hearings that provide equal status to both the applicant (Navy) and the affected citizens.</p> <p>If the Navy really wants citizen involvement and cooperation, affected communities should be aware and involved in decision making early in the planning process. Not after a plan is ready for the "sales pitch".</p> <p>Furthermore, you should have Washington State NWTT informational meetings in Coupeville, Brinnon and Forks - three communities, with travel challenges to your meeting locations, who are especially impacted by the NWTT.</p>	<p>The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.</p> <p>Because of the large size of the NWTT Study Area for this Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, it is not feasible to hold a public meeting in every location where there may be public interest. Generally, the Navy has tried to locate public meetings in locations central to training or testing areas and potentially affected communities. Meeting locations were also identified based partially on suggestions received from the public, feedback from elected officials and other stakeholders, attendance levels of previous public meetings for similar projects, and the number of public comments received during the scoping phase.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Massoni-1	<p>I am opposed to the planned dumping of materials into Puget Sound. This impairs efforts to protect the critically endangered orcas and to restore the fish needed for their food supply. Once dumped, material continues to leak and spread toxic chemicals and metals that then end up everywhere else in our ecosystem.</p> <p>I am also opposed to planned sonar testing. This physically harms the marine life, including the critically endangered orcas, and makes it more difficult for them to locate food. by increasing the noise they must navigate.</p> <p>The Navy is already being sued by Puget Soundkeeper, starting in 2017, over illegal release of toxic material into Puget Sound.</p>	<p>The Navy does not propose any activities such as “dumping” materials in Puget Sound. In the course of the Navy proposed activities (listed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS), some expended materials are left behind in the ocean. The potential impacts of these actions was thoroughly analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Matallana-1	<p>The Navy should not be doing this because it hurts the marine life and we can’t afford more things to hurt them because there so vulnerable already.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Mathias-1	<p>Please stop using sonar. It is truly beyond cruel and unusual practices. Orca whales are vital to the preservation and health of our Northwest waters. Orca whales are part of PNW people's identity. Harming and torturing them is a personal attack on all of us. Stop this practice immediately.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Matthews-1	<p>As a marine biologist, I disagree with the conclusions presented in this EIS Report. Expansion of naval activities will have a detrimental effect on marine biological organisms as well as humans. I urge the Navy to reconsider the continued activities in this sensitive ecological area and to relocate them elsewhere.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Matthieu-1	Just stupid, please show us that human kind are not so stupid. Orca's are intelligent animals, sensitive maybe more than human. So it's inhuman to di this !	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Maureen-1	Please stop any testing that will kill these magnificent creatures.!!!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Maxwell-1	Thank you for extending the comment period 15 days although I feel at least 90 days are needed for the public to have input on their federal lands. I also think the Navy should host public hearings so more people can speak about public owned areas.	It is important to note that flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) over the Olympic National Park are proposed to increase by as much as 10 percent annually. The approximate 10 percent increase in flights equates to about one additional flight per day. These flights have been

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>My name is Janet Maxwell and I recently moved to SC. I have lived all my life before this in the West. Both of my parents were in the Navy. My mother was a Wave and my father was a Chief Warrant Officer. I love going to National and state parks. I enjoy Wilderness and Wildlands experiences. The quiet gives people the opportunity to reflect on what is important to them and remind us of the importance of nature. Therefore I urge you to consider using some other location for the Growler training. A National Park is not the place for this and please consider the Quiet Park Alternative!</p> <p>I also hope the Navy will conduct actual noise monitoring in the Olympic National Park. Although you can simulate it with a computer you don't really know how it will affect birds, wildlife or visitors unless you do actual tests.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this very important issue.</p>	<p>occurring for decades, and as described in Section 3.12.3.3.2.1 (Training) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, attendance within the National Park has been steadily increasing since 2010, concurrent with these activities. The statement that jet noise is incompatible with natural soundscapes is a personal judgment outside of the scope of the noise analysis.</p> <p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
May La-1	<p>The nas whidbey jet expansion will cause great harm to humans and wildlife in the Puget sound.</p> <p>Wildlife life cycles will be impacted by the noise.Orcas will die and become extinct.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Education will be harmed as children will be unable to learn due to excessive decibel noise at schools. Businesses and tourism will be impacted because tourists will not want to come to the noise affected Areas, The safety of humans is severely at risk due to more flights on a Olf runway that is out of date For current	minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
May Lu-1	Please stop sonar testing! We already do enough to destroy their habitat, let's not destroy their hearing and survival mechanisms too.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Mayell-1	Ocean ecosystems are so important! We as a race are destroying them at an exponential rate. Surely there is another way for the navy to test its technology. Damage to the ocean and it's creatures means damage to humans and our survival. It doesn't matter how good our technology is if there are no humans left on earth to use it.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Mayen-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar testing. It is cruel to our marine biodiversity. We are supposed to protect those who are helpless. Please stop this.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Mayhew-1	This is an improper use of military progression. To put ocean life at risk which already struggles from a number of debilitating impacts is a threat to our survival and foundation for human and non human life. We should look further than the present to these impacts we may cause. It would be detrimental not to. Please do not begin sonar and electromagnetic testing in our oceans that would harm more ocean life. We are already seeing ecological impacts of our poor decisions. Do not cause harm to these animals which support a greater ecosystem we're ourselves involved in. Thank you for your consideration.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Maylett-1	At an alarming rate, whales are dying up and down the west coast another environmental stressor, navy sonar testing, will add to the destruction of the marine ecosystem. The death of whales threatens the survival of other species in the marine ecosystem. If we damage these populations with our human interactions of noise pollution and shipping activity, we will be breaking the balance of the ecosystem cycle and our planet will be detrimentally changed for future generations.	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. As described in Section 5.2.1 (Procedural Mitigation Development), the Navy's analysis assumes that</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		due to limitations such as those mentioned in the comment, Lookouts will not be 100% effective at detecting all individual marine mammals.
Mazumdar-1	Please stop all underwater sonar testing in the salish sea and surrounding waters as they are adversely affecting already endangered marine life and may cause mass deaths	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Mazzola-1	The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. There is no evaluation for other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas could be avoided if that was a priority for the Department of Defense.	<p>Please refer to the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) for a thorough list of why this location is selected for Navy training and testing. Some of the reasons include "proximity of multiple training and testing range complexes in the Pacific Northwest to each other," "proximity to shore-based facilities and infrastructure, and the logistical support provided for testing activities," "environmental conditions (e.g., bathymetry, topography, and weather) that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness," and several other factors mentioned in the document making this an ideal training and testing location.</p> <p>The U.S. Navy has conducted training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats or marine species in the area. The Navy has consulted with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS.</li> <li>• The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life.</li> <li>• Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS.</li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary.</li> </ul>
McCabe-1	I'm primarily concerned about the damage to the whales and dolphins and other wildlife that are impacted by sonar testing. Please don't subject them to dangerous and damaging tests. It's their world more than ours.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McCaffray-1	Please do not use that underwater sonar, it is destructive to underwater life. It has been proven over time you just need to pay attention please please do not use that, allow our underwater life to flourish!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Mccann-1	Please stop doing this science has shown this is bad for all sea mammals	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
McCarter-1	I am writing to express profound concern regarding the use of sonic and seismic testing in any ocean/marine environment. Testing has been proven to have serious deleterious effects on cetaceans and other marine mammals. Please stop all sonic and seismic testing! There are no economic benefits that outweigh the costs. Thank you for your consideration.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McCaughey-1	I believe they should be no underwater sonar testing in the area of critical habitat to the only 75 southern Resident Killer Whales. The PNW is an area known for the SRKW because of their salmon run. The salmon run is in depletion as well, so they do not need more stress. Marine life in this area already faces critical threats such as high boating exposure and the sonar associated with cargo and recreation and commercial boats. Please find a different area for this project.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.  The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
McClellan-1	Does anyone care about all the living creatures underwater? They are just as important as humans, in some cases more so, & they have just as much right to a healthy harmless life as we do. MURDER is a crime regardless of the recipients, please bear this in mind! Thank you.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McClure-1	Please stop – just stop and think about a course of action which takes into account the ecosystem as a whole. The mission of the military including the Navy should be to protect all life and address the coming challenges of climate change. It is time to turn the ship around. Peace not war.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
McClure-2	I made the point to the gentleman there that we should not be damaging the ecosystem. The ecosystem is in danger of collapse as it is. The Navy should reconfigure its operation and its objectives. Peace is what we need in the world, not more military action. And I'm really concerned about this approach, all this testing and possible explosive devices being set off off our coastline. You know, we've already seen collapse of the fishing industry here, and I just think the Navy has to shift 180 degrees. Humanitarian missions only; reduce their size significantly. It's ridiculous we're spending nearly a trillion dollars a year on the military. And so in closing, we need to stop and reevaluate, and take into account the serious nature of climate change and the challenges ahead for humanity.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
McCormick-1	I'm 100% AGAINST sonic testing in the Salish Sea. This practice is proven to be harmful to all marine mammals, especially the critically endangered & starving 76 Southern Resident Orcas who are veering close to extinction. These loud underwater practices are UNACCEPTABLE. Please STOP!	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
McCovey-1	J-E-N-E L. McCovey, M-C-C-O-V-E-Y, with Tri-Valley Care, the Yurok Tribe and Pacific Alliance for Indigenous and Environmental Action. So my question: This hearing is in regards to a supplemental document which I am requesting a hard copy of. ADA compliance. I cannot go and sit in a library. I cannot be in front of a computer. I -- dexterity, I don't got it. So I'm requesting a hard copy. Also this supplemental document, is it in response to and in addition to the Navy's five-year plan? So what that -- those documents are like this (indicating). That's what I'm asking. How do I want to say this? The mode of presentation for this document is not beneficial -- or could be more beneficial to the public by allowing a forum for questions, that everybody gets to hear the questions. And it allows for the understanding so we're one on one with one person. Not thorough. It's just not thorough.	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Question: Where is it in the research for mammals, fish and birds in consultation with the indigenous population and the TEK, Traditional Ecological Knowledge? Where is it documented? And I guess that's the question. I guess under Jene McCovey you want to put on the advisory committee to the Yurok Tribe's Natural Resources Committee and Epic lifetime achievement work for activism. Okay. Yeah. Epic environmental protection information have awarded me the Semper Virens Lifetime Achievement Award. Yeah, Lifetime Activist Achievement Award.	The Navy will continue to consult with the Tribes. Through Government-to-Government consultations, the Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.
McCrosky-1	Please stop these tests, they are harmful to the marine animals. This is not okay!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McCulloch-1	No more toxic noise! My primary home is on Whidbey Island where I no longer have any quality of life, due to FCLP at OLF. I own a cabin on 80 acres on the Olympic Peninsula, where I retreat to when the noise on Whidbey becomes unbearable... and now that safe haven is under attack as well?! I am done with the Navy obliterating this pristine area... and what I don't get is this. Why must the jets be so LOUD?! They go directly over my house, and at TIMES, even flying low they are capable of not emitting ear shattering noise, where the noise is actually tolerable. You have created a crisis in this region that could be diffused if you retrained your pilots how to fly, in terms of being a good neighbor. I know it is possible because I see this day in and day out, exactly where and how they fly. The experienced from inexperienced... how the flight path varies by pilot, on same LP. My point being, you the Navy snub your nose at the public, and a change in how you operate could be tolerable for all... but you refuse. Life changes, policies change, you are not being a good neighbor, and I will therefore do every thing I can to oppose you.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
McDaniel-1	The Olympic Peninsula is home to a variety of wildlife, as well as home of hundreds of people who live here. The peace and quiet is what has drawn many here, to escape the big city chaos and noise. The noise of the jets will disturb everything on the Peninsula, farm animals, wildlife, fish life, whales and people. Please abandon this plan for this area...there are many other less affected areas in which to train.	Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.  While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
McDonald J-1	NO MORE SOLAR TESTING! We used to wonder what caused mass beach strandings but particularly whales. Now we know it's sonar. Years ago scientist reported we needed to make drastic changes before the year 2000. Then they said we had 50 years, then 30, the latest report I read said we only have ten! Fracking, pipelines, plastic pollution, species extinction, climate manipulation, and sonar are all contributing to shorten the life of our Earth. All life is interlinked. Ten years means your children and my grandchildren will never grow up! Please do your part and stop sonar!!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
McDonald J-2	This must be stop! You are killing integral links in the ocean's chain. If the ocean dies, we die. It's way passed time to stop destroying our world.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
McDonald P-1	<p>The powerful sonar blasts that ships, such as destroyers, deploy to find submarines produce sound waves that can travel across hundreds of kilometers of ocean, disrupting the communication and feeding of marine mammals. At closer distances, the sonar can cause the animals to become deaf and disoriented, leading them to strand.</p> <p>Many of these beached whales have been found with physical injuries, such as bleeding in the ears, brain, and other tissues, and with large bubbles in their organs-damage that's similar to the "bends," an ailment, scuba divers can suffer if they surface too quickly.</p> <p>Considering the area off of the coast of Oregon, from Astoria to Brookings, is a rich fishing ground, it is inappropriate that testing should occur here. Healthy marine life is economically important to Oregonians. Doing these tests will damage the ecology of the ocean and impact the economy of the Northwest.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
McFarland-1	<p>Sorry there are so many negative comments because we in out home, are all for you!</p> <p>Keep up your good work!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>
McGillivray-1	<p>There is no practical or defensible need to release toxins into a body of water. Any statement to the contrary is uninformed. Any proposed release of "environmental stressors" is nothing more than an illegal dumping activity. Set aside any toxin release permanently.</p>	<p>Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling,</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
McGovern-1	Please do not do any sonar testing,you are hurting the whales and dolphins.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McHugh C-1	Sonar that harms wildlife is unacceptable.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McHugh M-1	Please stop the testing! It's killing the creatures of the Salsh Sea!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McKay-1	There is a lot of water on our planet. A significant percentage surrounds our east and west borders and surrounds our 50th state. I am concerned about our safety and appreciate most of what the military does. I am the wife of a Vietnam 100% disabled, service connected veteran. I understand that most of the decisions made come from what is in the best interest of our nation. Unfortunately, some of the decisions made are not fully explored.i would like to see a study done on the possible locations being considered with studies being done on the impact on the ecological impact to each of the locations. I believe the military branch of our country has an	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	obligation to an alternative location when their first choice may cause ecological damage to our planet and country.	
McKee-1	<p>We wish to document our objection to the Navy's plan to continue the use of Growler jets over our home and the wilderness area of Olympic National Park. I urge the Navy to relocate these drills further over the ocean, or in the already designated areas in Idaho.</p> <p>It is not appropriate to use such noisy aircraft over the very place people go for peace and quiet. To have our sky sounding like that of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, conflicts with the purpose of wilderness designation.</p> <p>Our approximate home coordinates are latitude 48° 5' 0" N, longitude 123° 44' 0" and we are being subjected to this noise with increasing frequency during the day.</p> <p>Thank you for your kind consideration of our comments, Dave &amp; Elena McKee</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
McKenzie-1	This needs to stop our sealife is suffering so much already but to deafen and distress them is unacceptable STOP it NOW	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McKnight-1	I understand that testing needs to be done and will continue. However, for the sake of our planet and the ecosystem we must find a safer way to complete the testing. This is causing more damage than you think.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
McLaughlin-1	<p>I have strong concerns regarding the inadequacy of the assessment of Tribal cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy's training and testing activities. These are especially important because these activities take place in the Pacific Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and is critically important for the well being of all people and lifeforms on this planet.</p> <p>At minimum, the Navy should work meaningfully with the Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of</p>	Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <p>The Navy should prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and well being of whales and other marine mammals.</p> <p>The “best available science” referenced in the draft SEIS must be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy’s NWTRC.</p> <p>The Navy’s monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy should expand its list of environmental “stressors” to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy’s 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing. Thank you for considering these substantive comments regarding the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>	
McLoughlin-1	<p>We owe it to ourselves and our future generations to preserve this beautiful species. Sonar is outdated unnecessary technology.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
McMillan-1	<p>THE GROWLERS ARE THE NOISIEST PLANES IN THE UNIVERSE. IT IS TORTURE FOR COUPEVILLE RESIDENTS. IF THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS IS INCREASED IT IS AN ASSAULT OF THE POPULATION ON THE WHOLE OLYMPIC PENINSULA. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
McMullan-1	PLEASE do what's right and end sonar testing so these (and many other) wonderful creatures can live in peace as they should.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McMurtrey-1	I am very concerned about sonar testing and it's effects on all whale species. The pod of orca that will be affected is in a very fragile position. Whales rely upon sonar and the decibel level the navy uses is not a natural occurrence and will harm these beautiful creatures	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McNeilly-1	Navy Sonar testing around marine life is unacceptable. The endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales are at a massive risk due to this, not to mention how physically and mentally damaging and disorienting it is to them considering they are already battling starvation due to our overfishing, they are battling through their daily lives due to our pollution. They recently had a baby to the Jpod putting the numbers of the SRKW at 76, we are fighting for their chances of survival, we refuse to allow our own human race be the reason for another Orca calf (baby) death. This must stop. We must allow them a chance at rebuilding their numbers and we owe that to them, they have and continue to suffer due to human cause therefore it is up to us as humans to change that, we can live in harmony with other animals/mammals but that is a two way street that we must respect rather than continue the greed and disruption of the earth.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McNulty A-1	Please reconsider this testing. It will be an environmental disaster for sea life which use sound waves and echolocation to communicate and find food.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
McNulty T-1	<p>I wish to register my opposition to the Navy's expansion of Growler Jet warfare training over Olympic National park, Olympic National Forest, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and associated wilderness areas. I live on the Olympic Peninsula, in the flight path of Growler jets returning to base after training on the Peninsula, and I am a frequent visitor to the Park and Forest.</p> <p>One priority for moving forward with this plan should be to monitor jet noise in Olympic National Park to attain data on jet noise and its impact on park visitors. The amount of noise and impacts described in the SEIS is unrealistic.</p> <p>The extremely loud and disruptive noise from Navy jets does not belong in one of our nations most popular national parks. Olympic National Park is recognized as a World Heritage Site, a world-class natural area, and should not be impaired by avoidable intrusions which degrade those values.</p> <p>The Navy needs to consider specific alternatives that would greatly reduce Navy jet noise over the Park and that would reduce or completely eliminate Navy jet flyovers of the Park. The fact that such alternatives would not be as convenient for the Navy as what it currently does is not a valid reason for refusing to fully consider such alternatives. Flying over the Park, especially the parts of the park not directly on the west coast of the peninsula, is not a military necessity for their training exercises. The Navy has many other airspaces it could fly in, but there is only one Olympic National Park.</p> <p>The draft SEIS only considers impacts in the parts of the Park that are in the Military Operations Areas (MOAs). But the Navy Jets fly over much larger portions of the park that are not in those MOAs and the impacts to those parts of the park should be addressed in the SEIS. The Navy's maps indicate transit flights between the NAS Whidbey Island and the Pacific MOAs flying over Lake Crescent and Hurricane Ridge among other areas within Olympic National Park, all of which are well-visited throughout the year.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses.</p> <p>In Appendix J, the Navy considered the noise impacts resulting from aircraft transiting into the Olympic MOA.</p>
McPhedran-1	<p>i AM 100% against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals! please do the correct thing and stop this madness.....</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McVay A-1	Please consider the damage sonar testing will do to the wildlife and orcas in the area. Reconsider.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
McVay M-1	Stop The growlers. Please. Thank you	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
McVetty-1	The way you conducted this meeting is a DISGRACE, to both the American people and the US Navy. The American way of life, of open democracy, public meetings & discourse has been subverted by your actions. The information you purport to give is fragmented and no one could hear what anyone was saying. SHAME ON YOU! This was a joke. Next time, bring a P.A.	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Meadows-1	I'm fairly confident that with the navy being an ocean role that almost every member of the crew loves the ocean and the ocean sea life. Sonar terrorises sea life and drives whales dolphins and more into mental states that cause them to beach themselves. It ruins migratory paths and upsets them hugely. Sonar kills sea life, that's science. Please please please stop the killing and torment	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Meecham-1	I would like to express my concern about the US Navy's proposed sonar testing in the Salish Sea these tests cause enormous harm the precious creatures who live in it value our natural world. Thank you so much.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Memcott-1	This may not be Substantive, but I am strongly opposed to the continued and expanded use of sonar in the Puget sound waters. Our endangered animal populations are barely surviving, and the outlook is bleak. Purposefully making this situation worse is unforgivable.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Mendes-1	I am a resident of Kala Point, WA, and often hear the growler flights originating on Whidbey. They disturb my night time reading and sleep. They seem to be occurring more frequently, and becoming more bothersome. Expansion would only make this worse. My other main concerns are: Wildlife/Marine Life/Bird Populations. Puget Sound is the nation's second largest estuary. The waters of the Salish Sea are some of the most biologically significant and productive marine areas in the world, home to both abundant and threatened species of marine life, including six endangered whale species, threatened Stellar sea lions, threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and rockfish species, and endangered leatherback sea turtles. .Aircraft noise and sonic booms have been implicated as a cause of lowered reproduction in a variety of animals. The J, K and L pods of Southern resident orcas that inhabits the Salish Sea is on the decline; only 76 remain as of the date of submitting these comments. Both high and low frequency noise have negative impacts on whales' ability to navigate and identify	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>food. The carbon dioxide in jet exhaust acidifies the water, damaging the web of marine life that sustain salmon, the orca's primary food source. Additionally, chemical compounds from the Navy's fire fighting fire retardant, already in Whidbey's aquifer, enter Puget Sound as surface run-off. These effects, taken together, will further stress the pods and may make the difference between survival and extinction.</p> <p>National Parks and Other Protected Lands. Puget Sound is bordered by 68 state parks and 8 national parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, and public lands. These assets help drive approximately \$9.5 billion in travel spending, including 88,000 tourist-related jobs that bring \$3 billion to the region, much of it to Washington State. Increased noise over the Olympic National Park threatens its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve. Tourists seeking tranquility as they visit these parks will stop coming if they are subjected to noise, and the media will amplify the deterioration through the negative comments that will be posted. The Olympic Peninsula relies heavily on the tourist industry, and anything that damages this industry does great harm to the economic viability of an already stressed region.</p> <p>Climate Change A four-fold increase in Growler flights will add 60,000 metric tons of additional carbon dioxide—a known cause of climate change— and speed ocean acidification, harming coral reefs, shellfish, and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>Native Americans. An increase in Growler flights will impinge on the treaty-promised hunting and fishing rights of native peoples. Pacific Northwest native tribes rely on the forests, rivers, and oceans for their survival and way of life. The lands and seas on which they depend are subjected to military maneuvers: bombing practice, ship-sinking, and sonar buoys that have killed whales, dolphins, porpoises, and other marine mammals.</p>	
Mendez D-1	<p>3-time Army combat veteran demanding the navy cease these tests and DO MORE, FASTER, to contribute to the betterment of our lands/waters instead of destroy/damaging them for "defense."</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Mendez J-1	<p>The noise is a deadly to them. It's time to think how much we, "the human" are put them through in order to meet our goals.</p> <p>Humans are the worst treat to humanity and everything else. We (humans) destroy anything around us, we don't care about the animals, or the</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>environment. We just care about our progress... it is time to PROTECT OUR ANIMALS!!!</p> <p>YOUR NOISE IS JUST ANOTHER KIND OF ABUSE !!</p> <p>NEEDS TO BE STOP NOW!!!! JUST USE A COMMON SENSE!!! STOP IT !!</p>	<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Mendham-1	<p>I respectfully ask that you do everything possible to mitigate any possible adverse effects on marine mammals such as dolphins and whales. They are already under considerable threat by inhumane methods of capture and slaughter and by the changing climate and increasing pollution in our oceans. Please consult with concerned and knowledgeable experts about these cetaceans so we can be certain that we are doing everything possible to avoid harming them.</p> <p>I appreciate that our comments are welcome and everything you can do to avoid possible harm to these animals and their environment.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Meng-1	<p>The Navy has expanded its operations from Whidbey to the San Juan Islands and the Olympic Peninsula. These activities include land, water, and air wartime training activities, resulting in a large amount of our population and wildlife in these areas being forced into a wartime daily environment. This environment includes bone rattling noise, pollution, and war equipment activity. These activities continue from early morning to often well after midnight. Environmental impacts are severe - particularly the noise and pollution impacting whales, birds, fish, water, and humans, that depend on these resources.</p> <p>In particular, I believe the sound impacts have not been measured; and their impacts on animal and sea life, and human health have not been studied. For instance, when we have high decibel noise shaking our house and trees, and we see whales in the bay, we have never seen the navy testing noise levels or the effects on our health.</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Menhorns-1	While I understand the importance of a strong defense/Navy, like the obsolescence of whaling and other practices which deplete our natural resources, this sonar testing seems like it causes too much impact for the return. It brings such serious impact on marine life seems unwarranted. I love this country, but I also love this ocean, and need its inhabitants for my livelihood. Please stop. Thank you so much!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Menzies-1	<p>Hello and good day,</p> <p>I support the stance of local Native American tribes, copied below.</p> <p>While i understand that we need to have a military and that that military needs to train, the scale of our military has gotten out of control. We can't keep thinking only of military power and not the overall future of our planet or the other species that have rights to live their natural lives as much as we do. Thank you for helping protect the future of the sacred ocean and Tribal peoples along the west coast.</p> <p>Thank you, Scott Menzies</p> <p>Since 2005, Tribes in Mendocino &amp; Lake Counties have opposed Navy training and testing in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) range. The ten Tribes demanding that their cultural ways of life and the marine environment be protected from impacts of the Navy's training are: Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria; Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians; Hopland Band of Pomo Indians; Little River Band of Pomo Indians; Pinoleville Pomo Nation; Potter Valley Tribe; Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians; Round Valley Indian Tribes; Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians; and Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians.</p> <p>For countless generations, the Tribes have maintained deeply significant cultural and spiritual ties to the coastline and ocean waters adjacent to Mendocino and Humboldt Counties, California.</p> <p>The Tribes have commented on earlier reviews of the environmental impacts of the training and testing, and are now requesting the public to submit comments on the Navy's current Draft Supplemental EIS (SEIS) to support the Tribes' position. The comment deadline is June 12, 2019.</p> <p>The adequacy of the assessment of Tribal cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy's training and testing activities is especially important because these activities take place in the Pacific Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes</p>	Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>and is critically important for the wellbeing of all people and lifeforms on this planet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I request that the Navy work meaningfully with Pacific coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</li> <li>• I demand the Navy expand prohibited activities in the 50-mile mitigation area to include use of sonar. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals.</li> <li>• I request that the "best available science" referenced in the Draft SEIS be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTT.</li> <li>• I request that the Navy's monitoring program be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</li> <li>• I demand the Navy expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</li> <li>• I request that the cumulative effect of ocean acidification should also be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</li> </ul>	
Mercer S-1	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to the Navy's planned SONAR and weapons testing along the west coast from Alaska to Mendocino California. In 2013, the Navy submitted comments stating that its actions would kill "only 130 whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals and seabirds."</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Further “ 1600 others would suffer hearing loss.” How can the Navy know that? Those are precise numbers and sound like underestimates. The Navy has stated that hearing loss is temporary in mysticetes. How does the Navy know that. To know that, an individual known to have suffered hearing loss would have to be identified, then followed and then constantly tested to diagnose its condition. Has the Navy accomplished that? If so, please supply me with a link to the publication the work is published in.</p> <p>It’s well documented that ship noise of 20 to 200 Hz overlaps the acoustic signals used by the baleen whales. Responses by baleen whales to increased noise include: habitat displacement, behavioral changes, and alterations in the intensity, frequency, and intervals of calls. A publication from 2012 in Proceedings Of The Royal Society B by Rosalind M. Rolland, et al, Evidence that ship noise increases ship noise in right whales, shows that physiological changes occur from stress directly related to increased noise. Gray whales feed in Arctic waters after migrating north from Mexican calving grounds. The Arctic ecosystem is undergoing extreme changes caused by climate change that is affecting the Arctic food webs. We know that undernourished pregnant females abort their fetus. Pregnant females traveling south to calving grounds in winter and exposed to loud noise and explosions may abort their calf.</p> <p>Dramatic displacement by loud noise from ancient migratory paths is not an option for this species. Further, increased noise will cause separation of mother calf pairs, and will drown out calls as they attempt to reconnect. In the 2013 comments submitted by the Navy, there is no differentiation between pinnipeds and cetaceans. There are tremendous and significant differences between the behaviors and biology of the two groups, as well as significant differences in behaviors and ecology between odontocetes and mysticetes.</p> <p>The recent Unusual Mortality Event caused by the known deaths of more than 70 gray whales, and likely 600-700 total dead makes it inconceivable that the Navy undertake extended operations involving increased noise including explosions to species already experiencing stress through a noisy environment, warming habitats, decreased forage resources, and in the case of the Southern Resident orcas, dwindling populations</p>	<p>emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Mercer T-1	<p>Since 2014, Mendonoma Whale and Seal Study, of which I am a founding and contributing member, has been conducting a gray whale census and studying the behaviors of all cetaceans that use and pass through our study area which is part of the Northwest Training and Testing area. We are deeply concerned about the harmful effects the acoustic stressors will have</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	on whale species, particularly the highly endangered southern resident orcas and gray whales. On May 31, 2019, NOAA FISHERIES WEST COAST REGION issued an UNUSUAL MORTALITY EVENT, or UME, for gray whales. Most of the stranded gray whales have been determined to be significantly emaciated suggesting a disruption in the food web. Studies done by the University of Western Australia have shown that sonar transmissions have actually blown holes in swarms of zooplankton upon which many species, including gray whales, depend for food. Clearly, further investigation is needed. Your report states “while data are lacking on behavioral responses of mysticetes to continuously active sonars, these species are known to be able to habituate to novel and continuous sounds.” Section 3,4-108. How does the Navy plan to collect the data that is necessary before subjecting mysticetes to sonar and other forms of acoustic stressors?	<p>examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Merryman-1	The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore which would minimize the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities that have been in the area for generations. The Olympic Peninsula contains some of the more remote locations accessible to foot traffic, including a site that has been listed as the most quiet location in the United States. There needs to be an evaluation of other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas must be avoided to protect these pristine areas for future generations. Please make this a priority for the Department of Defense.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Meschi-1	Please stop this!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Metcalf-1	I'm writing with regard to the proposed Navy training exercises that would if permitted, take place off our Northern California coast line. I'd like to start by thanking you for your dedication to National Security and for your service to the people of the United States of America. I have many friends in the US military and understand the importance of training our military to	As described in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety), a diver would have to be within 3,000 yards of the Navy's most powerful sonar to experience any effect. The Standard Operating Procedures implemented by the Navy would prevent a diver from being that close to any active sonar activities.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>keep our troops prepared. I also imagine you've now spent hours/days reading and responding to the many concerned citizens during this public comment period. I would like to thank you again for taking the time to listen, read and respond to the many letters you've no doubt received. I live in the small town of Mendocino in California and am concerned about the negative impact the training exercises would have on our town. In the years past Mendocino and the surrounding natural resources once supported a booming logging and fishing industry. They have since crashed and our town is now dependent on tourism, much of which is driven by the Marine environment off our coastline. I'm a freediver/spearfisherman and am primarily concerned about the potential negative impact of the naval training on our marine life/kelp forest as well as on the diving community. In the last decade I've seen our once lush kelp forests begin to die. The underwater structure which was once home to the kelp and abundant sea life is now barren covered in purple sea urchins. Here's a picture from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to give you an understanding of the decline. The picture is an aerial survey of the kelp forest, on the left 2008 and on the right 2016. The decline has only continued since. Due to the decline of the kelp forest less and less people travel to our coast line to dive. Many used to come for Abalone which is now closed to take. My favorite and only local dive shop is going out of business. Many hotels and inns along the coast are also struggling due to the reduced number of tourists. Jobs and economic opportunities are disappearing. Person to person, I have to say it really sucks. I never thought I'd see such a decline in my lifetime. I always assumed (oops.) I would be teaching my son Leo (now[4] to freedive and take him out to explore, enjoy and harvest dinner from the rich marine environment as I have over the past years. I'm no longer confident it will be healthy enough for his generation to enjoy. I can't imagine that Naval training in such close proximity will help the---_already stressed environment. I have a few questions for you before I conclude:</p> <p>1) Is is still going to be safe for me to freedive during the training? I have heard reports that the active sonar used can travel for miles underwater and worry about the negative physical effects it might have on me and my dive buddies.</p> <p>2) Does the Navy understand how any toxins released into our ocean during the training will affect the kelp?</p> <p>Thanks again for taking the time to read all this. If your ever stressed from the review process come visit Mendocino, it's a real gem. If by chance you</p>	<p>Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	freedive or spearfish and are in the areas, contact me and I'll take you out personally to show you the kelp and cook up some fish tacos.	
Meyer J-1	I would like to comment on the proposed flight plan increase for the Growlers over the Coupeville area. I am opposed to my hearing damage caused by jet flyovers near my property and work place The sound decibels have been measured professionally at my work place at 118 decibels. My hearing protection offers 18 decibel reduction so the resulting decibel is 100 decibels. My ears ring with the protection on therefore my hearing is being damaged. It is accumulating hearing damage to me. Please relocate the jets. The nuclear bomb detonation testing was stopped because it was damaging to people's health, and the environment. Thank you for listening.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Meyer K-1	I was always brought up to be a good neighbor. Performing these noisy disturbing to the environment and community exercises in an area where it is not necessary I feel is not being a good neighbor. I am supportive of our troops and appreciate the intent however I feel it is disrespectful to the community you serve. Please look and other options and don't brush us aside as if you know what is best for us. Ca respectfully	When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:  1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude. 2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year). 3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day. 4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.
Meyer R-1	God Bless the Navy but for the love of God and Country don't test in the Salish Sea or Puget Sound. Our marine animals are already being stressed and are almost at the point of no return 🙏. What will our grand children say. Thanks 🙏	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Meyer R-2	<p>I endorse Choice 5.1 - NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE. My reasoning is that if training and testing is discontinued it would result in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lessening the negative impact on sediments and water quality.</li> <li>2. Improving the ambient air quality as amount of pollutants emitted would decrease.</li> <li>3. Lessening the impact on marine habitats and marine mammals, the general fish population, sea turtles, bird population, marine vegetation and marine invertebrates.</li> <li>4. Lessening the negative impact on the American Indian traditional resources, transportation, recreation, tourism, quality of life for nearby inhabitants and public health and safety.</li> </ol>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Meyer-Kittredge-1	<p>We have just learned of an EIS put out by the U.S. Navy on March 29, which is very disturbing to us. The only EIS alternative that is acceptable is the No Action Alternative. The other options given are unacceptable to the environment and life on the Olympic Peninsula. Alternatives 1 and 2 would cause unforgiveable and unnecessary damage to Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Alternative 2 is the most extreme. The length of the EIS, the great area it affects, and the many people it affects requires a 90-day comment period. This, so the EIS can be examined properly and thoroughly. Please ask the Navy for another 14-day extension of the comment period. The noise from multiple jet flights over</p>	<p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTTEIS Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	the western and northern parts of the Peninsula will chase residents and visitors away. This will affect the health and economy of the Peninsula and the state of Washington. The search pattern of jet Growler flights looking for emitters would roar above the ocean beaches; the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges; Washington State Department of Natural Resources land; Quinalt, Quileute and Hoh Reservations; and thousands of acres of private land, including the towns of Forks and Amanda Park. The Navy admits to 85–100 decibels of noise per pass. That is enough to cause hearing loss and contribute to other health problems. People in Forks have recorded 94 decibel flights under the current operations. While noise is known to affect people and no studies have been done on the iconic Olympic elk, it is not difficult to reason they would be similarly affected, being mammals of a similar weight. The military training in the Marine Sanctuary would do damage to the ocean beaches, the marine animals of the coast, the nesting areas of many of Washington's shorebirds, migrating whales, and the birds that use the Pacific Flyway. The Navy has denied flying over Olympic National Park. This is untrue. Not only is this untrue, it is impossible not to fly these missions over the Park. This degradation of the Olympic Peninsula's environment is unacceptable. For 112 years, Congress and presidents have set aside areas of the Peninsula to protect its valuable environment. Irreparable damage would be caused if the activities are done as stated in the Navy EIS/OEIS Mar 2019 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Training and Testing. Please stop this plan by the Navy. The training has been done elsewhere. It can be done elsewhere. Wild places are not empty places just waiting for an invasion by the military. Our national security must also include environmental security. Sincerely, Kit Kittredge, Dr. Keith Meyer	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Michan-1	Stop it. It is so annoying that we are always doing something wrong to wildlife. Seriously, the US is always doing something so wrong to wildlife, always. I'm sick and tired of it	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Michell-1	Find somewhere else to do Growler trainings; somewhere not along the coast that will impact marine sea life! The population of Souther Resident Orcas and their endangered health should be a main priority! The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the ships and aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. There needs to be an evaluation of other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas SHOULD be avoided.	
Milholland-1	See attachments.	The attachments were unrelated to the Navy's Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Milholland-2	<p>(With Port Townsend Nuclear Ban Team) Hi, Sara. I'm Doug Milholland from Port Townsend, Washington. I'm profoundly discouraged that our government is insisting on the next generation of nuclear weaponry. I think it's a death sentence for the planet, and I'm very concerned that we've made a strategic blunder as a people.</p> <p>I so wish that the military industrial congressional media complex had some kind of some system balance so that we weren't stuck with the best defense, the most profitable defense that can be made. It's a terrible mistake. I'm a father and grandfather. I don't like hearing the Growler (inaudible) weapons at all, because when I hear them, I think of nuclear war. That's what I think they're strategically built to do.</p> <p>If we have a war with Russia and only a portion of their nuclear weaponry escape our first strike, which is logically what will probably happen, even if only the fallout will create a nuclear winter, there will be billions of casualties. Somehow we have to change course.</p> <p>I'm not sure how to accomplish that as one citizen, but for what it's worth, I'm putting my tiny piece of weight in that direction. I'll do what I can to help you and your children and grandchildren survive by being active. I would like you and the people that you are writing for to consider listening to Dr. Ira Helfand. He has a short video that's available on TED Talk and on the website -- H-e-l-f-a-n-d -- you're doing okay, aren't you?</p> <p>COURT REPORTER: Yes.</p> <p>MR. MILHOLLAND: -- if you go to "Resources" and preventnuclearwar.org and watch the Ted Talk Nobel Prize winning Dr. Ira Helfand on this topic of can we prevent a nuclear war. His strategy is to help us understand what it would be like. And for people who don't know what a nuclear war would be like and yet are willing to follow or willing to help out, whatever we can, on defending our wonderful nation, somehow I think it's an important -- what would it be? -- an important spice to understanding the complexity of the time that we're here.</p> <p>More weapons are making us less safe. The more active war fighting strategy is making us less safe. But Ted Talk with Dr. Ira Helfand available at preventnuclearwar.org/resources is something that I would like everybody</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>who gets to consider the remarks from the public to watch and mull over. There are other resources here too, but I've left a copy of this with the receptionist, and I can leave it with you as well.</p> <p>So a second Nobel Peace Prize winner is talked about in the New England Journal of Medicine. I'm not sure when it was published, but it describes how we can eliminate weaponry through stigmatizing, prohibiting and eliminating. It's a helpful article.</p> <p>And I would hope that the process of getting feedback from the public would include things like that we call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first. Our country hasn't done that. You probably know that.</p> <p>Two, ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear war. Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert. Four, canceling the plan to replace the entire arsenal with enhanced weapons like the Columbia-class submarines, and actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. Can we do this? It's not like we're facing a volcano or an act of God. We actually have the power to change course as a species, but it will require a profound amount of courage. It will require reconsidering some of the toxic programming that so many people have taken into themselves; us-versus-them programming, better-the-top-dog-than-the-dead-dog programming. There is a path, but it has to be found deep within our hearts, and it's moving from obedience to authority to obedience to the call of life that we may live. That's the kind of message I'm carrying.</p> <p>COURT REPORTER: Thank you. This will be sent to the Navy.</p> <p>MR. MILHOLLAND: And this is a picture of what I think a nuclear war holds for the Puget Sound.</p> <p>COURT REPORTER: Do you want this to be on the record?</p> <p>MR. MILHOLLAND: Oh, sure. This is a photograph I got from a website, "NukeWatch" I think it is. And it shows that the Trident nuclear submarine base is perhaps the most important target on the planet in case a nuclear war occurs. And believe me, we're ready 24/7 to have such a thing happen. This isn't like a little possibility. As time goes by, it becomes a greater possibility.</p> <p>Here's Everett, where there's one of the bases. I didn't put in the Bremerton complex. I chose to consider the target-worthiness of the weapons transfer depot on Puget Sound that's across the bay from where I live. Here is the Ault Field. I know the commander's here. I'd like to talk with him.</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>This kind of understanding helps to season the willingness to say yes, we have to consider what we're really talking about. This particular graph indicated 131,000 fatalities within the first few minutes.</p> <p>In any case, this document here focuses just on the Trident base, and you're welcome to a copy of it if you like. It talks about the nuke map and its understanding of impact. It's an important thing to include in the record because, after all, the activities of the Navy are not about sending sewing machines overseas to the indigent nor are they about enabling people in the Third World countries to have hospitals or roads.</p> <p>What the activities are is to maintain and enhance a balance of terror that threatens annihilation of life on the planet. It's important, I think, for to us change course as a species. In military parlance, it would be about-face, march, and March towards a survival of the future, march away from being at the brink.</p> <p>Thanks so much.</p>	
Milholland-3	<p>Greetings Navy planners and analysts:</p> <p>Proposed Naval activities over the next seven years will continue to sharpen the sword of Damocles that dangles over our collective heads.</p> <p>Insisting that Growlers electromagnetic warfighting planes must practice with nuclear attack subs, trident nuclear weapon subs, missile destroyers and aircraft carriers clearly defines nuclear warfighting practice, wars that threaten life on our planet.</p> <p>Our reputation as a force for good lies shattered at the chaos and massive destruction our military is responsible for in the Middle East. The economic and threatened military warfare directed at Iran points out the bankruptcy of our ability to negotiate long-standing agreements that prevent more nations from becoming nuclear states. Crushing the Venezuelan government economically in order to accomplish theft of that countries mineral resources makes a mockery of earlier American administrations development of the United Nations, the rule of law, the Nuremberg principals. Our refusal to recognize the World Court's duty to haul Hegemon America into court to address war crimes our country has committed lays bare the fact that our ruling elites have devolved into an armed group bent on plunder.</p> <p>I read the supplemental analysis comparing the growlers to prowler's noise equivalency and found no mention of the Washington State Department of Health sharp criticisms and suggestions of how to proceed to accomplish necessary testing, use quality evidence, and guard the human rights of those subject to abuse.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The supplemental detailed the continued collapse of the population of Marbled Murrelets, but did not consider the impact of electromagnetic warfare practice on the bird's ability to find their way home. I suspect that many migrating birds are negatively affected as well.</p> <p>The growing necessity to fill the ocean basins with low-frequency sonar in order to find the ever-quieter attack and nuclear weapons carrying submarines deafens and kill whales. Have critical areas for the survival of the resident Orcas of the Salish Sea been set aside? Has sonar practice been banned from the Haro straits?</p> <p>Spending vast sums of wealth and intelligence on the goal of full spectrum dominance makes impossible our ability to live in harmony with the other peoples of our planet, forcing other nations to embark on vast spending on their militaries, which we then use to justify more spending. That the Pentagon is yet to be properly audited, has misplaced Trillions really stinks of decay and corruption of the balance of powers designed into our political system.</p> <p>Having such an enormous military threatens our democracy, and was succinctly questioned by Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Martin Luther King. It is such a tragedy that America abdicated being a light for the world, and is seen by many as the greatest threat to peace on the planet. <a href="https://www.pri.org/stories/2014-01-03/new-poll-says-these-nations-are-top-4-threats-world-peace-guess-whos-number-one">https://www.pri.org/stories/2014-01-03/new-poll-says-these-nations-are-top-4-threats-world-peace-guess-whos-number-one</a></p>	
Miller B-1	<p>The No Action Alternative is the only acceptable Alternative for this EIS by the Navy. It is the only alternative acceptable to the Peninsula's environment. Should the plan under this EIS become fully operational, the Olympic Peninsula will be radically changed NOT for the better. It will damage the national park, national forest, beaches, and the waters off the coast. That does not match our mission, "to protect the wilderness and ecological integrity of Olympic National Park.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Miller H-1	<p>The drums of war are beating once again, a carrier sails towards the Persian Gulf. Diplomats are re-assigned.</p> <p>It is important that the American people and our Sailors understand that the Navy is the principle advocate for everything that America stands for, and an American Sailor in uniform on a liberty call is often the first person, and the first American that somebody overseas may meet. It is a great responsibility, but our Sailors are magnificently prepared to be war fighters at sea, but also diplomats defending our prosperity.</p> <p>George Washington said "it follows then, as certain that night succeeds the day, that without a decisive Naval force, we can do nothing definitive, and</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>with it, everything honourable and glorious.” So for all of you who are displeased with the very necessary military training on the Olympic Peninsula for personal grievances, such as the noise of a jet taking off or landing, and interrupting a very important dinner party, grow up. With respect to preparing for combat, you must have a very sober view of what combat may bring. We have got to make our training as absolutely realistic and prototypic as possible. The more realistic you can make your training, the better you are going to be making the transition into combat. This is just one reason why advanced training on the Olympic Peninsula is vital to our national security, and the future of America as we now know it. So stop your whining and your protesting about training which has been going on since about 1940. You knew when you purchased land &amp; homes that the Navy had a Naval Air Station there, and would be flying many missions and training our military.</p> <p>Just for once in your life put God and country before self.</p>	
Miller K-1	<p>Wildlife is already having a rough time as it is with their natural enviroment. No need to complicate their lives with our problems.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Miller N-1	<p>Oh gawd that sound is excruciating. I cannot imagine how such intelligent personnel at the navy can think this is not affecting wildlife or that they are so ignorant of the beings around them. End this archaic practice. We have computers and many options now to avoid doing this.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Miller P-1	<p>I was fishing at La Push last week and could not believe the almost constant roar. A few weeks earlier we noticed the many con trails over La Push. So this is about your Quinault Range Site. This is a national park where people come to get away from city with its noise and stink. I noticed the locals had become used to it as they hear it every day. I know, I grew up on the flight line both on SAC and ADC bases. Back in the day the EA-6Bs were busy out here and over in the cascades, but not as often. I live in P.A. and some nights I can hear the Growlers go over and here them all the way to the coast. I know this won't do any good but please tell the boys to stay off the after burners as much as possible. Pardon our noise is the sound of</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	freedom. Keep up the good work but try and get congress to get quieter planes next time. I suggest F-22s now theres a quiet plane.	
Miller R-1	<p>The Navy says that noise levels over the Olympic airspace range from over 80 dB to 100 dB, which alone does damage to wildlife as well as humans. These measurements are even higher on Lopez Island. The actual noise levels quoted by the Navy's draft EIS are wrong, because they have been generated by a flawed and outdated computer model. A Department of Defense Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program determined that new software was needed to provide legally defensible noise assessments of current and future aircraft operations. The final report found that NOISEMAP's linear acoustics were inadequate for modeling higher thrust engines used in the Growler.</p> <p>In 2010 a new noise model, the Advanced Acoustic Model (AAM), was developed under DOD contract to address these shortcomings. Given acknowledgement by a DOD program that NOISEMAP is not legally defensible for the Growler, why did the Navy use the flawed and dated NOISEMAP as the modeling tool for this draft EIS? This choice rendered the noise analysis scientifically inaccurate.</p> <p>The Naval Research Advisory Committee (NRAC) issued a report that highlighted the Navy's lack of empirical jet noise data measurements, lack of consistent measurement methodology and standards, and lack of jet noise database and its proper maintenance. NRAC's report was submitted to the Navy in April 2009. The Navy appears to have failed to act on the NRAC's recommendations. It should start now by taking proper Growler noise measurements as a key input into preparing a scientifically and legally defensible draft EIS.</p> <p>In addition, the noise measurements represent only an average of flying and non-flying times. They are not actual noise measurements.</p> <p>A moving aircraft causes compression and rarefaction, setting air molecules in motion and producing pressure waves. High-thrust engines, like those in the Growlers, emit low-frequency "window rattling" pressure waves that penetrate into body organs and cause medical problems. This impact is significant and different from any high decibel noise impact. Show actual scientific evidence of the impact on "Low frequency" vibrations on the human body and to that of wildlife.</p> <p>We know that wildlife is severely impacted by noise, including the spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, and Orca whales. Referring to Title 10 US Code 35 Section 1536, this makes it possible for the Secretary of Defense to request an exemption from the Endangered Species Committee citing</p>	<p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. The noise model used, MR_NMap uses state of the art science and is the appropriate method to evaluate aircraft noise in special use airspace such as the Olympic MOA. This model is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p>The Navy considered but did not develop mitigation for aircraft overflights, such as shifting transit routes, relocating aircrew training activities, or modifying flight altitudes, because such mitigation would not be practical to implement due to implications for safety and mission requirements.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>“reasons of national security” and we are required to issue an exemption. Only the military can take a species to extinction. The EIS must spell out how many species will be destroyed, decimated or damaged and provide thorough reasoning for any by-catch, mortality of wildlife expected. Finally, the fuel consumption rate of the EA-18 Growler is 1,304 gallons per hour, or 12.5 metric tons of CO2 per hour. You could drive 38 Toyota Prius’s from Anacortes to New York City and produce less emissions than a Growler makes in an hour. 5000 Growler jet flights a year over the Olympics adds significantly to global climate change, not to mention to the air quality over the peninsula. Each Growler costs \$81.5 M, so that 1.9 hours of flying is the same cost as an average Washington State elementary school teacher’s salary of \$59,700. We must take action now for the future of this planet for the children of today.</p> <p>I respectfully request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Do actual real-time, accurate noise testing on the ground by a qualified independent agency—UW, for example.</li> <li>2) Reduce the noise immediately, by mitigation and less jets and flights.</li> <li>3) Request the Navy seriously explore other places to fly and train which won’t degrade a premier landscape that is the pride of Washington State.</li> <li>4) Show actual scientific evidence of the impact on "Low frequency" vibrations on the human body and to that of wildlife.</li> </ol>	<p>Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The Navy used the best available science regarding noise impacts on humans and on wildlife.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Miller S-1	<p>Stop the sonar testing that interferes with marine wildlife on the West coast. Critically endangered species like the Southern Resident Orca are being hurt as further endangered by this testing. They cannot properly hunt or effectively communicate with each other! This is absolutely unacceptable and must stop. Extinction is forever- let’s give these iconic and beautiful mammals every chance possible to survive.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Miller T-1	<p>Please address the following concerns with the draft supplemental EIS/OEIS (referred to below as the draft SEIS):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The adequacy of the assessment of Tribal cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy’s training and testing activities is especially important because these activities take place in the Pacific Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and is critically important for the wellbeing of all people and lifeforms on this planet.</li> </ol>	<p>Please see the Navy’s response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>2) The Navy should work meaningfully with the Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <p>3) The Navy should prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and well-being of whales and other marine mammals.</p> <p>4) The "best available science" referenced in the draft SEIS should be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTRC.</p> <p>5) The Navy's monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>6) The Navy should expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</p> <p>7) The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</p>	
Miller W-1	See attached pdf from Wayne Miller, 110 kb only.	See responses below.
Miller W-2	<p><b>FLAWS IN THE EIS:</b></p> <p>I have been an oceanographic researcher and an investigative scientist, studying marine environments and researching ocean chemistry, as far back as the 1960's.</p> <p>Historical military testing on marine environments is known to have produced much environmental damage to the oceans and to ocean life. In</p>	<p>The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>your case, the Navy EIS does not provide adequate mitigation or prevention of damage when testing occurs. Consequently, I am deeply concerned and object to the continual destructive military testing at sea, including that which could be generated from the result of your current EIS.</p> <p>Not only should the flawed EIS be rejected, but the overall condemnation and banning of these destructive exercises is absolutely necessary, substituted by other options for training, some of which are described below. We are most certain that the military could investigate and implement other more desirable, less-harmful training exercises, and still satisfy the intractable fears and insecurities of the public, military and the government. In any case, we must circumvent the habitual fixations entrenched in the evolution of these self-imposed human beliefs, which have been generated from the past.</p> <p>Furthermore, presentations from the military, Department of the Navy, in particular, reveals that public meetings, exposure, workshops and input is also flawed--designed to confuse and obfuscate in order to limit appropriate input, as evidenced in the more recent EIS presentation in Fort Bragg, CA. That process is the same one used to "divide and conquer", to confuse and discourage rational evaluation by the public. The process normally occurs in many other public meetings designed to drive an agenda from an agency of the government or private industry. The result is flawed and divisive documents, such as this EIS, which perpetuates flawed agency responses towards public review, where agencies have even discarded and rejected peer-reviewed scientific evidence.</p>	<p>to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.</p>
Miller W-3	<p><b>MILITARY BUILDUP AND ITS LONG-TERM DESTINY</b></p> <p>Over a long history, in both war and peace, human nature, with its fear and insecurities, has fostered an exponential buildup of military force in a number of countries, especially the USA, with its adversarial posture after WWII. Evolution of the military industrial complex grew concomitantly with the addictive attachment to find or even create an enemy, whether real or apparent, to justify the growth of the complex in the name of democracy. Assumed threats justified the self-serving, continuous development of more sophisticated and greater weaponry.</p> <p>A good example is the nuclear arsenal that countries have competitively expanded upon, with habitual and wasteful funding through the influence of military defense contracts and budgeting, industrial lobbies and political entrenchment. Despite the obvious, the destructive, growing power of nuclear military arsenals can still destroy the planet many times over, easily mutating surviving biological life into an inexorable process of decay, in a</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>radioactive wasteland that could never recover, unlike some optimistic assumptions. A nuclear holocaust could produce environmental destruction resulting in loss of our atmosphere from our planet and never support any life again, permanently--ending up like the planetary conditions that evolved on the planet Mars.</p> <p>Training exercises in ocean activities, from Navy vessels, in particular, are also perpetuated by the military industrial complex that auto-catalytically is self-feeding through the corporate lobbies, contractors tied to political donations, and the military and political superstructure that ensures the flow of money. Even when the Pentagon says they do not need increased funding and arsenals of destruction, the corporate/political process drives the system towards the inevitable outcome, anyway.</p> <p>Currently, the course of direction towards a more intelligent and safer solution between nations, to protect and prevent destruction of both human and ocean life is being continually eroded. Like an epidemic, international cooperation and insightful solutions within systems of government are dwindling throughout the world, thanks to the posture of our existing government and its private agenda.</p>	
Miller W-4	<p><b>NAVY TESTING</b></p> <p>Evolution of military testing at sea, with sonar and detonations, has long been documented in scientific literature, where a variety of injuries and death have been reported throughout much of ocean life, on whales, in particular. The amount of devastation from these types of testing to any life can be demonstrated in laboratory conditions, as well.</p> <p>In fact, rather than test in the open ocean, destructive post-war training exercises can be simulated on land, substituted with virtual conditions that normally would exist at sea. An example is the more advanced technical training of pilots in simulated virtual aircraft and ocean vessels. After all, we are long past old methods of WWII and war games, because we can effectively train by less destructive methods using more advanced technology. Therefore much of the training can be implemented with land-based laboratory simulations, with little need for excessive spending and complex, destructive outdoor exercises.</p> <p>The environmental impacts of military testing, exercises, war-games and actual war is rarely exposed, mostly suppressed. Flawed documents, such as this EIS, add to the list of human causes of other perils and do not take into account the overall actual effects for this type of military testing.</p> <p>As if military testing exercises aren't enough in preparation for war, and actual war itself, degradation of ocean environments and ocean life comes</p>	<p>The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4 (Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>at a much higher collective cost when you add to it the [scientific evidence] for human causes of all other perils. Some egregious examples that exacerbate the impact of military activities: pollution, created by human efforts, from thousands of toxic chemicals (many designed to be persistent chemicals, non-biodegradable over the long-term), drugs and other endocrine disruptors, plastics and plasticizers (with huge island garbage gyres within the ocean, also washing up to shorelines); refuse, trash and sewage from spills (many deliberate); oil spills and fuel dumping, gas and oil drilling, fossil fuel burning (crude, dirty fuels from land use and from ships at sea); disruption at sea from propeller-driven ships in general (interfering with navigation and feeding of marine life, with injury to small and large organisms, such as whales); excessive noise from ships, blast waves, sonar, electromagnetic, etc. that do irreparable harm; changes in physics and ocean chemistry with declining quality of both ocean and terrestrial waters (warming oceans and increasing acidity, with coral bleaching, loss of habitat and disruption of food chains); climate change/disruption resulting from atmospheric and oceanic impacts (sea level rise and rise in severity of unpredictable, inclement weather); etc.; etc.</p> <p>More so, the evidence of injury to whales and other ocean life is most profound. Sonar, electromagnetic disturbances and blast waves from munitions testing, at different frequencies and intensity, travel considerably faster in water than air. Deaths of sea creatures, such as whales and others that rely on sound transmission to communicate and navigate are clearly linked to detrimental activities of invasive human technology. The scientific evidence, both here and abroad, is compelling.</p>	
Miller W-5	<p>SOME QUOTED SCIENTIFIC STUDIES:  <a href="https://www.nrdc.org/onearth/noise-makes-dolphins-and-whales-flee-and-can-take-their-breath-away">"https://www.nrdc.org/onearth/noise-makes-dolphins-and-whales-flee-and-can-take-their-breath-away"</a>:  Many species of whales and dolphins have supersensitive hearing because they use sound to navigate, a process known as echolocation. ... Some hear high-pitch frequencies up to 100 kilohertz (kHz), which is about 80 kHz higher than the upper limit of human hearing.  When they encounter very loud noises it can even cause damage in their ears and lungs. ... However, noise pollution is just one among many threats for whales and dolphins. Oil and chemical spills, plastic pollution and rising sea temperatures are also big concerns. (Jul 3, 2018)."  "Apr 2, 2014: Extreme noise pollution has been known to kill hundreds of whales and dolphins at a time. There's evidence that jarringly loud noises</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>could also lead to a surge in mass strandings, the deadly phenomena in which droves of marine mammals flop ashore.</p> <p>When a single whale beaches itself, the cause is thought to be Injury, illness, or old age. But when dozens, or even hundreds, of the animals come ashore at once, scientists think something more is at play. While no one can say definitively what causes mass strandings, a growing body of research seems to point to one trigger.”</p> <p>Noise: “According to a study published last month in the Journal of Experimental Biology, noise pollution such as ship traffic and seismic testing may force marine mammals to exhaust more energy on their dives than usual. This is particularly bad news because today our oceans are noisier than ever. As a proof of concept, Williams and company applied their findings to the Cuvier’s beaked whale, which may grow to 23 feet long and 5,500 pounds and is known for making dives of nearly two miles in depth—deeper than any other mammal. Perhaps most important, beaked whales have already been shown to be extra sensitive to noise pollution. In one 2011 study, scientists found that Blainsville’s beaked whales stopped echolocating during dives when navy sonar was present and then avoided the source of the sound for two to three days. What’s more, several other studies have shown a correlation between navy sonar exercises and beaked whale strandings.”</p> <p>As another example, “Noise Makes Dolphins and Whales Flee—and That Can Take Their Breath Away”, resulting in inability and injury from ‘bends’ when diving and returning safely from various depths in the ocean.”</p> <p>These are only a few examples, with more evidence accumulating from further scientific investigations. Simply search the internet to find overwhelming evidence of the degrading force of human encounters and invasive interference associated with military exercises in and on the ocean.</p> <p>Consequently, I must reiterate that the EIS alone is seriously flawed, overall, and that the only solution is to eliminate the destructive military activities that are causing so much damage to the oceans and ocean life. Earth is already in peril, as described in the examples above, and there is no need to continually add to its environmental demise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Office of Naval Research’s Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy’s project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Milligan-1	<p>Please, stop killing the ocean. It is unfathomable to me that the only route of disposal of environmental stressors is into the Pacific Northwest Ocean, where marine mammals, and by extension, coastal US citizens will suffer the fallout.</p> <p>You can believe that this will not go down without is Pacific</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Northwesterners putting up a fight. You will be hearing from many more of us and in public protest as well.	<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Milliren-1	<p>While I am grateful that the Navy has been forced to consider new marine mammal and other environmental evidence in a Draft Supplemental EIS/OIS for its latest training and testing proposal in the Northwest, I cannot agree with its acceptance of the many detrimental effects of such training and testing. Mine training, torpedo testing, electronic warfare practice, etc. are simply NEVER ACCEPTABLE in our homes or the homes of such precious sea creatures as the Navy says it is OK to harm. Growler jets annoy me or frighten me daily in my home and yard and on my daily walks, no matter what time of day. What can their noise do to wild creatures in our national park or at sea? to humans who seek the solace of wild places for restoration? These jets ARE UNACCEPTABLE--especially when we have been told that there are other facilities in areas nearby (Idaho?) where these practices can take place. Ruining a wild place for the convenience of jets and pilots is NOT Acceptable.</p> <p>Sound/being able to hear is of critical importance to many marine species who depend upon sound to communicate, find mates, find food, avoid predators and even simply navigate. Limiting marine animals' ability to hear or recognize certain frequencies affects their very survival, their ability to find food, move away from danger, etc. ANY Exploded eardrums, changed behavior is UNACCEPTABLE. 95,943 incidents of temporary hearing loss in harbor porpoises over 7 years, 1,033 incidents of permanent hearing loss -- this is simply UNACCEPTABLE. It is simply NOT SUSTAINABLE to ruin the hearing of one tenth of our harbor porpoises in 7 years. And DOING ANYTHING that could possibly endanger our Southern Resident Killer Whales is TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. Using your sonar anywhere where any whales could possibly be found is UNACCEPTABLE. You must BAN SONAR in</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>the Salish Sea when our Southern Residents are around. PERIOD. Saying there will be no marine mammal deaths "begs credulity."</p> <p>And this is just a mammal discussion. There are millions of wonderful other species in the oceans. What else are you harming??</p> <p>The Navy needs to take its jets and its sonar, its mines and its torpedoes and all such destructive testing somewhere else where there are NO WHALES...maybe the Great Garbage Patch?? (Actually I don't know whether the Great Garbage Patch also catches whales, so you'd better check.)</p> <p>I am totally opposed to your acceptance of harm for humans and other species in the name of war practice. If you must practice war, do it where no life is harmed, do it on computer more often and almost never in the wild skies and seas of this precious only planet we have. War is harmful to all species, and practicing war does not make it OK to kill or harm other species.</p>	
Minaud-1	Je suis contres les essai de sonar qui va perturber une vaste population de mammifère poisson et autre animaux de la mer qui vas finir par s'échouer ou bien mourir dans les océans de cette terre.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Minton-1	I Strongly oppose the Navy's plan to expand Growler flights and engage in a variety of warfare training in Northwest waters, and support the in every detail the letter written by Mr. Don Stillman to the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Mitchell-1	Leave nature alone !	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Mitro-1	<p>If we can simulate conditions for outer space so that astronauts are safe I wonder why we cannot simulate testing rather than use sonar and explosives in ocean that disturb or kill marine mammals.</p> <p>If testing must be done in real life, i.e. oceans is there a way to do the testing in areas where there are no marine mammals and where a migration means that whales, etc. are elsewhere during that time?</p> <p>Your process for meeting and hearing the public input was not open to hearing what the public had to say. You can do a much better job of inviting comments.</p>	<p>Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4 (Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.</p> <p>The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.</p>
Mixson-1	<p>I am writing to voice my objections to the proposed increase of Electronic Warfare training over the Olympic Peninsula. I am a resident that can hear, more than see the growlers as they pass over my home on their way to their targeted area. I am not affected nearly as much as my friends who live closer to the main flight paths. Believe me, the Navy is discussed with derision by them. The Navy is not a good neighbor.</p> <p>The electronic warfare portion of these exercises is a major, but less understood concern. I don't know much about electromagnetic radiation, but I DO know that in the wrong combination of strength of the emission and the duration can have adverse health effects on living organisms. I know that training is necessary, but really, do you need this much live training? It is a very expensive option. Jets consume huge amounts of fuel which discharge more carbon into the atmosphere than most aircraft, since the touch and go sequence is comparable to the energy consumed by a drag racer compared to a normal car. I request that the Navy look into other options. I trust that you have already looked into the use of drones for some portions of the training.</p> <p>I have read that The Growler's F-18 airframe is one of the most accident-prone military airframes in existence. Between 1980 and 2014, the F18 sustained 39 accidents; including at least 22 crashes of the EA-18G and F/A-</p>	<p>The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.</p> <p>Regarding aircraft mishaps, non-anticipated accidents or emergencies are not included in the NEPA analysis.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	18 E,F since 2000. A crash in the Olympic wilderness would potentially ignite a horrific forest fire that firefighters are unable to reach to extinguish. I am a proud veteran, but not a fan of this program.	
Mizrahi-1	This is in our own PNW waters 😞	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Modoni-1	The Southern Resident Orcas are in danger. Only 76 are left from a endangered species. Your testing in the area where they try to survive is wrong. Stop the sonar testing in the Salish Sea.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Mojena-1	I stand vehemently against any advancements or industry that would put these creatures or the ocean in peril. Once we ruin it, magic and beauty will cease to exist.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Molinari-1	Please know that our Southern Resident Orcas are not only intelligent but unique. They are unlike any other orcas in the world and they are a vital part of our Salish Sea ecosystem. Your sonar tests have been shown to be detrimental to our whales. they hunt with sonar and your tests are a problem in that regard and they cause great pain to the whales as well. Please do your testing in an area where it WILL NOT HARM our whales.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Monge-1	Please stop the Sonar Testing it causes harm and distress to all marine animals. sonar can interfere over hundreds of miles with some marine mammals like whales, dolphins, and walrus that rely on underwater sound for navigating, catching prey, and communicating. sonar can harm the animals by interrupting mating, stopping communication, causing them to separate from calves, and inflicting stress.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Montague-1	The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. Also, it would be far safer for a lot of people if the training was away from	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	populated areas. There is no evaluation for other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas could and should be avoided.	where the ships and aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Mooney-1	I read the Anacortes American article asking for comments on training test plan and wanted to register our comment. We attended a film “Plane Truths” shown at our local senior center. As you are aware of the group “Sound Defense” they are organizing against your testing plan and the Growler. We sat through the film and we disagreed with a lot of the statements made in the film. We live with the planes, fly directly over our property, as we are on the bad weather flight plan. Of course, in the audience, we had pilots, that tried to explain why the area was chosen for testing, how the pilots must test their skills in flying the Growlers. As you know the “Sound Defense” group are only interested in protest and aren’t interested in listening, in fact a local doctor got up and spoke about noise, relating different comparing items in our everyday life. The “Sound Defense” people in the audience cleared the room. Pat & I are in favor of your testing we like “The Sound of Freedom.” We must be prepared for what may come our way in America. Don’t leave our area, tired of “not in my backyard.” I am speaking out against “Sound Defense.”	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.
Moore D-1	This EIS is quite alarming. The only EIS alternative that is acceptable is the No Action Alternative. The other options given are unacceptable to the environment on the Olympic Peninsula. Alternatives 1 and 2 would cause unnecessary harm to Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The length of the EIS, the great area it affects, and the many people it affects requires a 90-day comment period so the EIS can be examined thoroughly. There should be another 30-day extension of the comment period. The noise from multiple jet flights over the western and northern parts of the Peninsula will affect the health and economy of the Peninsula and the state of Washington. The search pattern of jet Growler flights looking for emitters would roar above the ocean beaches; the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges; Washington State Department of Natural Resources land; Quinault, Quileute and Hoh Reservations; and thousands of acres of private land, including the towns of Forks and Amanda Park.	The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.  The Navy’s proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.  The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA’s designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA’s designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The Navy admits to 85–100 decibels of noise per pass. That is enough to cause hearing loss and contribute to other health problems. People in Forks have recorded 94 decibel flights under the current operations. While noise is known to affect people and no studies have been done on the iconic Olympic elk, it is not difficult to reason they would be similarly affected. The military training in the Marine Sanctuary would damage the ocean beaches, the marine animals of the coast, including the nesting areas of many shorebirds, migrating whales, and the birds that use the Pacific Flyway. The Navy has denied flying over Olympic National Park. This is untrue. Not only is this untrue, it is impossible not to fly these missions over the Park.</p> <p>I, and many others, are opposed to this degradation of the Olympic Peninsula. For 112 years, Congress and presidents have set aside areas of the Peninsula to protect its valuable environment. Irreparable damage would be caused if the activities are done as stated in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Training and Testing.</p> <p>The training has been done elsewhere. It can be done elsewhere. Wild places are not empty places just waiting for an invasion by the military. Our national security must also include environmental security.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Moore M-1	<p>I am very concerned about the continued testing the U.S. Navy conducts along the Pacific Coast. The effects the testing, particularly sonar testing, has on these creatures has not been adequately addressed. Many very notable marine biologists not connected with the Navy have cited these effects over the course of many years and yet the testing continues. My grandfather and three of my uncles served in the Navy. It saddens me to know that the Navy does not consider humane treatment of marine mammals important enough to take meaningful steps. It makes those of us outside of the military lose a lot of respect for your branch.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Moreno AI-1	<p>The intent of this testing will be used for evil causes, and it does not help the U.S. with any issues going on in our country. It's pure selfish intent. Instead of investing money on Sonar to kill an enemy, we should be using that money to stop global warming, and save our already dying marine life.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Moreno An-1	Stop using sonar systems in our oceans! You know you are putting the health of our oceans and planet at risk! Do you not care about the people and animals of the world?	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Morgan F-1	I am 100% in favor of the Navy. However, I want you out of my Forest! This is a place I came to for peace and quiet and clean air and water. Navy games do not belong here.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Morgan N-1	<p>I am the son of a Navy Seabee, went to college in Lacey, WA on a Seabee scholarship as a Civil Engineer. I love our US Navy, and am proud of the work that is done. It is a vital part of the Puget Sound economy but I must ask that the growth in the flight operations over the Olympics be carefully looked at and an alternative explored. The impacts that these flights perform are much greater than what the US Navy knows.</p> <p>I was born and raised on the corner of Olympic National Park and am very familiar with how much flight traffic has grown in the last 20 years. I worked in the Bogachiel Rain Forest in National Forest and in the National Park for 2 years from 2014. It is the drainage directly north of the Hoh River and right over the training areas. Your Growlers are correctly named, because of the deafening noise they bring to an area that is truly a wilderness. I would hear nothing for an hour and then a deafening boom on ridges and</p>	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>valleys. This went on for the 2 years I spent doing trail work there. If you must do flight operations, why must they all be over this pristine area of the Olympics? Could they not be spread out or over desert areas? Over the ocean? It is crazy to conduct war games over an area that is so biologically dense, just for the sake of flight training.</p> <p>Please consider an alternative or at the very least do not increase more growler flights. As the person who reads this comment that is buried behind a desk of government paperwork, please take a hike into the Bogachiel and Hoh Rain Forest and see the impact.</p>	
Morris K-1	<p>Would you knowingly allow your grand children to be exposed to sounds that result in permanent hearing damage?</p> <p>Would you knowingly allow your grand children to be exposed to sound waves that result in learning disorders?</p> <p>Where do you draw the line when it comes to public health and the health of your family and your children's future?</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Morris N-1	<p>Endangered Orcas and many other whales forage and travel in the training range. It is impossible to detect their presence in time to stop any exercises underway. Based on studies by NOAA, the area within the naval training and testing range is an important forage area for the whales. It is recommended that the Navy move the training range westward beyond the continental shelf or time the train when there are the fewest Orcas, May-Oct. Gray whales migrate northward primarily between March and June along the US west coast and the coastal waters off Southeast Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. Researchers have recommended delaying or postponing training to late October and choose areas outside the migratory routes for these marine mammals. Sonar is known to cause death and serious physical pain to marine mammals such as dolphins and whales. Mid frequency sonar is linked to the strandings of various species of cetaceans and baleen whales. Serious physical damage and whale mortalities have been reported in the past by strandings of beaked whales off the Bahamas ; further investigation revealed the connection to the Navy's use of sonar. Sonar disrupts foraging and feeding behavior of Orcas and other cetaceans and the prey fish. "Fish show permanent and temporary hearing loss, reduced catch rates, stress, and behavioral reactions to noise" [Weilgart, L.S. 2007, THE IMPACTS OF ANTHROPOGENIC OCEAN NOISE ON CETACEANS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT, CAN. J. ZOO. 85(11):1091-1116 2007, doi:10.1139/Z0f-101]. In Washington State the endangered Southern resident Orcas (Jpod) were reported to</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>have serious behavioral changes due to the US Navy's USS 'Shoupe' using its mid-frequency sonar in the San Juan Island region (Noren, D.P. et al. 2009, "CLOSE APPROACHES BY VESSELS ELICIT SURFACE ACTIVE DISPLAYS BY SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALES," Endangered Species Research; Vol.8: 179-192, <a href="http://www.int-res.com/articles/esr2009">http://www.int-res.com/articles/esr2009</a>.</p> <p>Long gone are the days when the Navy thought it okay to use whales as targets in naval exercises. Today the Navy must strive as much as possible, to protect our marine life. Dolphins, whales, sea turtles, and many other species in the ocean environment are valuable to the entire ecosystem of the ocean now and for our future generations. It is as important for our military forces to advocate for the safety of marine life (such as dolphins, whales, sea turtles and many other species), as it is for them to believe they must patrol the oceans for the safety of the United States and engage in war games.</p> <p>The Navy awards one of its medals of merit, the 'Dolphin pin,' to submarine officers. In this spirit, to choose to honor Naval submarine officers with this distinction, should also behoove the Navy to respect all species of marine mammals as well as the dolphins, and help protect their habitat in the oceans along with the myriad marine life species with which we share the oceans of the Earth.</p>	
Morten-1	Do something to SAVE us!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Mosher-1	<p>Moving to the PNW 3 years ago presented me with the appreciation of marine life.</p> <p>Out beautiful majestic marine animals deserve to recognized as something to be protected. For years we learned about these amazing animals in Michigan. I had no idea how much in harms way they have been until I moved here. They represent the state of Washington. Please protect them from this devastating testing. I want my Grand children to see them thriving in our waters.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Muchowski-1	It is unacceptable to continue the use of active sound navigation and ranging, known as sonar, and explosives while employing marine species mitigation measures. The disruption of marine life and disturbance of marine mammals is unacceptable.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Muchowski-2	<p>Unfortunately for many whales, dolphins and other marine life, the use of underwater sonar (short for sound navigation and ranging) can lead to injury and even death. Sonar systems—first developed by the U.S. Navy to detect enemy submarines—generate slow-rolling sound waves topping out at around 235 decibels; the world's loudest rock bands top out at only 130. These sound waves can travel for hundreds of miles under water, and can retain an intensity of 140 decibels as far as 300 miles from their source. These rolling walls of noise are no doubt too much for some marine wildlife. While little is known about any direct physiological effects of sonar waves on marine species, evidence shows that whales will swim hundreds of miles, rapidly change their depth (sometime leading to bleeding from the eyes and ears), and even beach themselves to get away from the sounds of sonar.</p> <p>In January 2005, 34 whales of three different species became stranded and died along North Carolina's Outer Banks during nearby offshore Navy sonar training. Other sad examples around the coast of the U.S. and elsewhere abound, notably in recent years with more sonar testing going on than ever before. According to the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which has campaigned vigorously to ban use of the technology in waters rich in marine wildlife, recent cases of whale strandings likely represent a small fraction of sonar's toll, given that severely injured animals rarely make it to shore.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, and the "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)" (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>).</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Mueller-1	<p>The Sinkyone Council and its member Tribes continue to oppose the Navy's training and testing activities, and are demanding stronger protections for the ocean and the Tribes' cultural ways of life.</p> <p>The points listed below highlight the defects of the current draft SEIS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.The Navy should work meaningfully with the Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</li> <li>2.The Navy should prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals.</li> <li>3.The "best available science" referenced in the draft SEIS should be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTRC.</li> <li>4.The Navy's monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</li> <li>5.The Navy should expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</li> <li>6.The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</li> </ol>	Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.
Mullee-1	<p>Please do not do blasting of any kind anywhere in the ocean.</p> <p>Our sea life has so much to deal with already.</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	They are going deaf, they can't use their eco location, so they die. Please keep our oceans safe for all sea life.	Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Muller-1	Ces pratiques sont inadmissibles. Respectez la vie sous-marine. Translated: These practices are inadmissible. Respect the underwater life.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Mulvey-1	End this now.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Mundwiler-1	This practice is dangerous and totally unnecessary. The job of the military is protect not to destroy not just the civilian population and our interests abroad but also our priceless national treasures, public lands, coastlines not to mention the tourism industry. Even someone completely lacking a conscience and indifferent to the suffering of a critically endangered wildlife population should at the very least be able to acknowledge the economic value of Marine life in terms of the tourism dollars they generate. If you don't have a heart at least have a brain and keep your hands off the Salish sea. If Sea World can build tanks big enough for whales, the navy can build tanks big enough for testing their equipment. It would generate some nice revenue for your defense contractor buddies in the private sector.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Munevar-1	Espero que los gobiernos, los políticos, dejen de pensar en sus bolsillos y actúen para no seguir permitiendo que miembros de familias sean arrebatados, que seres tan inteligentes y hermosos como son las orcas y delfines dejen de estar viviendo confinadas a una caja minúscula, toda una vida de dolor, angustia y sufrimiento para satisfacer la ignorancia de personas. Queremos los tanques libres de delfines, de orcas. Libres y salvajes los queremos.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Munoz-1	Stop test! Your harming our sea life	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Murdock-1	Please do not emit your sound into the ocean it will deafen our orcas, all life is sacred and should be treated as such. Would you want to be deafened? Please and thank you	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Murphy-1	The community of central and north Whidbey Island has little to no confidence that the Navy cares one bit about their opinions or the local communities. The Navy turns a deaf ear to the impassioned pleas to stop torturing us with the incessant, debilitating noise that makes life a living hell. Property values have plummeted. People who have grown up in the same house are now faced with the reality of trying, without success, to sell their family homes because the dramatically increased noise is so appalling and infuriating. The Navy should move their practice flights to the desert away from any populated community. ...this is just common sense! LISTEN to what the community is saying!  Also, please stop with the underwater sonar testing that is harming our precious marine mammals and also stay away from our Olympic national park. This world needs what's left of serene, unmolested nature and our tourism industry is important to our economy. The Navy has no right to destroy this too.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.  The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Murray-1	<p>The Navy's job is to protect the national security of the United States. That means keeping us safe here at home. Safeguarding our national security means protecting the environment where Americans live and work, and ensuring that not only humans, but the living nature that surround us, are able to thrive peacefully in a healthy environment, free from dangers caused by loud noise, electromagnetic pollution, sewage pollution, etc. The Navy is our neighbor. All we ask is that the Navy be a good, responsible neighbor and steward of the environment that we all share.</p> <p>With regard to the supplemental analysis comparing the Growlers to Prowlers noise equivalency, I saw no acknowledgement or mention of the Washington State Department of Health's well founded critiques and recommendations regarding how to protect the human rights of those subject to adverse impacts.</p> <p>The supplemental discussed the ongoing population collapse of the Puget Sound's Marbled Murrelets, but did not factor in the impact of electromagnetic warfare practice on the bird's ability to navigate/find their way home. I suspect that many migrating birds are negatively affected as well.</p> <p>The Navy is now inflicting fatal (internal organ-damaging) sound pollution throughout our ocean basins with high-frequency sonar which impairs marine mammal navigation -- rupturing their eardrums and starving large, intelligent and sentient creatures such as whales, dolphins, seals &amp; sea lions. Have critical areas for the survival of the endangered Southern Resident Orca Whales of the Salish Sea been set aside? Has the deafening sonar been banned from the Puget Sound and Haro Straits?</p> <p>The Navy's massive "takes" of marine mammals and their levels of testing and training for war are helping to make our oceans barren. Laying waste to our ocean and its living creatures is an environmental crime and is certainly not keeping Americans free or safe!</p> <p>The best estimate for the number of gray whales in the eastern areas of the North Pacific is around 21,000.</p> <p>However the numbers of 'takes' allowed to the Navy in the areas of the Pacific where gray whales might be found is 62,550. Multiple, aggravated harassment incidents to the same animals throughout their range of movement is apparently standard operating procedure for the Navy.</p> <p>The Navy's massive "takes" of marine mammals and their levels of testing and training for war are helping to make our oceans barren. Destroying the planet is not keeping Americans safe!</p> <p>Please remember that people everywhere use and depend on the oceans,</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	for a living, and that healthy oceans are invaluable to human life. The US Navy must take responsibility for the fact that its deadly, toxic sound pollution and other dangerous, noisy electromagnetic training activities will have serious, long term consequences for the health and safety of American civilians through the misuse of our oceans and their precious sea life — this essential resource is NOT a blue desert, but a living, vibrant part of nature. It is NOT something that can be endlessly exploited. Please respect and protect our oceans. The Navy has the responsibility to do its job while guarding ocean life (which is part of ensuring our National Security) and the well being and quality of life for US citizens here in the State of Washington.	
Musgrove-1	I live on the Coast of Mendocino County. I am a biologist. Climate Change is fluid and getting worse all the time. It is affecting all ocean species. Will the SEIS take into account that the high gray whale mortality as well as other species?	The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.
Musser D-1	I realize that there are budget restrictions and timelines to be met, but when the efforts to solve a problem become immoral there is no excuse. Dumping waste in the oceans is terrible for the environment, regardless of what how the law is interpreted. Shame on those that are responsible. It sickens me that such attitudes are held by those I would hope to respect.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Musser R-1	To whom it may concern: The plight of the Southern Resident orca is well known, therefore I do not feel I need to go into details of their struggle. I will simply point out that they hunt by sonar and any testing in the waters where they reside would be detrimental to their health. Testing could disrupt them for a short time, or even worse, cause long-term damage, hindering their abilities to capture much needed prey to survive. They are starving to death. Please take your testing away from their home, Our home! Thank you for your consideration.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Myers D-1	Please stop underwater sonar testing. These frequencies have negative effects of marine animals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Myers St-1	<p>This is a very slick and well-produced presentation—but hardly even-handed. I strongly support a “No Action Alternative” as mentioned in page 3 of your brochure.</p> <p>We need to drastically reduce our military spending and re-direct those resources to peaceful and productive programs. There is no way to keep us “safe” when we meddle in so many countries.</p> <p>I spend a lot of time here at the Performing Arts Center in support of drastically underfunded programs and events. It makes me sad to see it used by taxpayer funded “overkill” presentations. It gives the impression of “how much can we spend” on this, rather than how much it should cost. I resent this mis-allocation of resources.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Myers Su-1	The Olympic Peninsula is a refuge for all creatures and humans. No jets over the Olympic peninsula Park!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
<b>N</b>		
Nadeau-1	<p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the testing of sonar type equipment and weaponry given previous negative impacts on the delicate mammalian sea life. The Navy already has data that proves whales, dolphins, porpoises and any other creatures that utilize echo location are irreparably harmed (or even killed) by such testing. While I appreciate the need for national security, there must be another body of water that are not home to these valuable creatures besides our oceans that could be utilized to test these machines.</p> <p>Thank you for considering the negative impact that this could cause on our environment prior to conducting the tests.</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nagata-1	There has been more and more evidence that underwater sonic blasts have harmed and killed marine mammals. Similar blasts used in underwater oil	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	exploration is now being seen to destroyed zooplankton in large areas on which much of marine life depends on. The Navy has not done enough research on the environmental damage done during these tests. Our oceans are suffering enough from rising temperatures and acidity, plastic pollution, agricultural and mining runoff...sonar tests are just another nail in our coffin. Please stop. I'm a US taxpayer who is pissed at how my tax dollars are used!	and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nagy-1	These harmful military practices are unacceptable.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Nawn-1	<p>Navy impacts on Southern Resident orcas were in fact recognized as an issue by the Orca Task Force in Washington state.</p> <p>In fact, concerns about the Navy's use of sonar equipment impacting the Southern Residents was raised in the very first Orca Task Force meeting</p> <p>In addition, potential impacts from Naval activities are recognized as a threat to Southern Resident orca survival and recovery in both the U.S. and Canada Southern Resident orca recovery plans.</p> <p>2. Given the small size of the endangered Southern Resident orca population today, and the fact that they travel in groups, harm to a single individual orca can easily mean a population-level effect.</p> <p>Advancing this EIS now for activities in an area that is on the cusp of being designated as critical habitat is irresponsible.</p> <p>The EIS should include two additional studies related to impacts on Southern Resident orcas: Wieland et al. 2010 and Emmons et al. 2019.</p> <p>The Navy should explore the use of newly available apps and technology that provide real-time information on whale presence in the Salish Sea and along the coast. Using this technology could expand the ability of the Navy's marine mammal observers to be aware of and respond to the presence of Southern Resident orcas.</p> <p>9. Additional information is needed on the anticipated timing of the proposed activities.</p> <p>The EIS should detail the times of year during which the proposed activities will take place. Any overlap in their seasonal movements and the Navy's testing and training activities will increase impacts on these species.</p>	<p>Wieland et al., 2010 was incorporated in Section 3.4.1.7.4 of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS as recommended by the commenter.</p> <p>The Navy is aware of the information from Emmons et al. 2019, as this research was funded by the Navy. The research results were published too late to be considered in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and have been included in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>As stated in Section 2.3 (Proposed Activities), because of the nature of training and testing requirements for forces that must be ready to deploy at all times, activities could occur throughout the year. The Navy added additional details on seasonality and day/night requirements of its activities to Appendix A (Navy Activities Descriptions) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Navy did consider seasonal movements and behaviors of marine species in its effect analysis. The Navy developed mitigation areas to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species either seasonally or year-round in key foraging, breeding, and migration habitats, as described in Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment).</p> <p>The Navy developed mitigation areas to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on Southern Resident killer whales and other marine species in key foraging, breeding, and migration habitat areas, as described in Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment). For the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy developed several new mitigation measures specific to Southern Resident killer whales. For example, in the NWTT Offshore Area, the Navy developed a new mitigation area, the Juan de Fuca</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Information about timing should be made public in the EIS and the Navy should seek to adjust the timing of their activities to minimize such overlap. The Navy must consider the current crisis facing the endangered Southern Resident orcas and make new adjustments in its testing and training activities. Despite being listed under the Endangered Species Act for nearly 14 years, this unique population is not recovering and is continuing to decline. It is obvious that status quo actions, including the Navy's training and testing activities, are not serving the Southern Resident orcas. Given their highly endangered status and continuing decline, the Navy should be considering how to reduce impacts and increase protections for Southern Resident orcas.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of our input and concerns as you finalize the EIS.</p>	<p>Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, which encompasses waters off Cape Flattery. The Navy's mitigation now includes annual limits on hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar and prohibits explosive Mine Countermeasures and Neutralization Testing in the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area. All other explosive activities are required to be conducted 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. In addition, the Navy developed a new mitigation to issue annual awareness notification messages to alert ships and aircraft to the possible presence of increased concentrations of Southern Resident killer whales seasonally, which will further help avoid potential impacts from vessel movements and training and testing activities on this species.</p> <p>The Navy developed new mitigation for Navy biologists to initiate communication with the appropriate marine mammal detection networks in NWTT Inland Waters prior to conducting explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers, Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training, Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises, and Small Boat Attack Exercises. This mitigation will help the Navy plan activities in a way that minimizes the potential for exposure of Southern Resident killer whales, as described in Section K.3.3 (Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in NWTT Inland Waters). The Navy will also continue to assess the practicality of other available monitoring techniques as technologies advance.</p>
Neddermann-1	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). I am very concerned about impacts on the Southern Resident orcas, which are at serious risk of extinction.</p> <p>Navy impacts on Southern Resident orcas were in fact recognized as an issue by the Orca Task Force in Washington state.</p> <p>The EIS inaccurately claims that "Navy actions were not the sources for any of the identified threats" in the report by the Southern Resident Orca Task Force (Office of the Washington Governor, 2018) (page 3.4-46).</p> <p>In fact, concerns about the Navy's use of sonar equipment impacting the Southern Residents was raised in the very first Orca Task Force meeting (5/1/2018 meeting minutes). Recommendation 25 in the final report was "Coordinate with the Navy in 2019 to discuss reduction of noise and disturbance affecting Southern Resident orcas from military exercises and Navy aircraft." It further continued: "The governor should meet with the U.S. Navy's Commanding Officer for the region that includes Washington</p>	<p>The Task Force Final Report did not identify Navy sonar among the major threats. The major threats identified in the report are a lack of prey, disturbance from noise and vessel traffic, and toxic contaminants in the waters they inhabit. The Navy, as acknowledged by the Governor's Task Force in 2018, was not previously requested to participate in the Task Force, and the Navy was not made aware of conversations held during meetings in 2018. The Navy has since been invited to take part and, as a result, a team of Navy subject matter experts and Navy officers began to participate with the Task Force's working groups on prey and vessel traffic. The Navy participated in the Governor's Task Force, as the group identified ways to support recovery efforts for the Southern Resident killer whales. The Navy has also been a key contributor to marine species monitoring projects for a number of years to advance scientific knowledge of Southern Resident killer whales and the salmon they rely on. For decades, the Navy has implemented habitat improvement projects on its installations in Puget Sound that benefit the Southern Residents.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>state to address the acoustic and physical impacts to Southern Resident orcas from Naval exercises in waters and air of Washington state. The governor should request the Navy participate on the Vessels working group in Year Two and identify actions to reduce the Navy's impacts to Southern Resident orcas" (emphases added) (Office of the Washington Governor, 2018).</p> <p>In addition, potential impacts from Naval activities are recognized as a threat to Southern Resident orca survival and recovery in both the U.S. and Canada Southern Resident orca recovery plans.</p> <p>Why not let our region be known for it's healthy wildlife, amazing views instead of destructive and annoying noise and planes?</p> <p>Why not let history show that we the people, including the Navy, did everything in our power to save the orca whales and be a friend to other species. With the way the world is heading that will be far more important than playing war games. There won't be a planet to war over if we destroy our habitat, and we will not have much of a legacy to leave if we are responsible for killing off amazing creatures. Let us, together, do everything in our power now! Please, I implore you, do not expand the growler program.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of our input and concerns as you finalize the EIS.</p> <p>Sincerely, Audrey Neddermann</p>	
Nelson-1	<p>Please don't destroy what precious little wildlife we have in Puget Sound. Because of so many environmental factors, our region is going to suffer. Marine wildlife is dieing from climate change and human impact. Please consider that you're testing is going to be so invasive and, so destructive, that there will be little marine legacy left for our children.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Ness-1	Knowingly performing sonar testing that debilitates the hearing of those animals that rely on it for sustaining life is deplorable. The concept of know better, do better is applicable here. Educated individuals such as yourselves know better. So, in turn, do better. Leave this planet in better shape than when you arrived for our children.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Neuman-1	Please discontinue the sonic and other testing in the Olympic Peninsula and park. It is wrong to so disturb such a rare and pristine place. Much of the world's wild places are under extreme assault as well. This unique and beautiful area, North America's temperate rainforest, needs to be preserved. I would love to move to this area but would never do so while the Navy has access to conduct these destructive tests. Our country needs to be protected, but there must be another place where these tests can take place. Thank you for your time and consideration.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the ships and aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Newkirk B-1	I feel the Navy should of held a meeting in Oak Harbor – San Juan Islands as this noisy & pollution affects all of these areas greatly. All I have read on sonar is very dangerous for sea life (killer whale – salmon etc.). It's very hard to believe that we need to use actual explosives. Why not use simulators? Please leave us alone. Don't expand training on the coast.	The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4 (Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.
Newkirk G-1	The training is not needed here and should go to where you were already doing it in Idaho, California. You are endangering Washington State's air, water, animal habitat. We do not need your death and destruction in our state. The U.S. Navy is a danger to the planet earth.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the ships and aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Nguyen D-1	The preferred Alternative 1 proposal for training and testing in our oceans is unacceptable. The report minimizes the long-term negative impact on marine mammals stating that there may be permanent hearing loss etc. when hearing loss would practically equate to death for such sea life. I specifically oppose the sonar, electromagnetic, lasers, and explosives that leave by-products in our ocean. Even if kept at the water's surface, this type of testing would incapacitate animals living in the wild as it disrupts their physical abilities, environment, and food chain. This is unacceptable and the Navy certainly has enough funds to complete training in a way that	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	does not further destroy OUR PLANET. The oceans are a vital life source FOR ALL OF US. This is not about cute animals being harmed, this is about further negatively impacting the life source for all living things on this planet, including us. We have the technology to use alternative testing facilities and Congress continues to feed our military with billions of dollars. This action to expand testing is not necessary for proper training of our military.	
Nguyen T-1	I think there should be some consideration to not conduct this testing in the Puget Sound where it's known the whales and wildlife in the area are incredibly affected by the sonar and the underwater noise pollution. There must be other options that are more remote and not as damaging to the local wildlife.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nicholas-1	<p>Our son served in the Navy during the Iraq war and we are well aware of the need to the Navy to be trained and prepared, but I feel there are other places or methods of carrying out the mission of preparedness that won't destroy the peace and beauty that we have here in NW Washington.</p> <p>The Olympic Peninsula relies largely on tourism to support the businesses and the jobs in an otherwise depressed area. The biggest draw of this area is the beautiful, wild lands of the Washington State forests and the Olympic National Park. They are renowned for the peace and quiet that they offer and bring in over 3.5 million visitors a year to the Park and to the towns around the National Park who want to experience the serenity and grandeur it offers. ("Visitation to 922,651-acre Olympic National Park has risen steadily since 2012, according to NPS statistics. There were 2,824,908 recreation visits to Olympic in 2012. Visitation rose to 3,085,340 in 2013, 3,243,872 in 2014, 3,263,761 in 2015, 3,390,221 in 2016 and 3,401,996 in 2017. May 11, 2018" Peninsula Daily News) Allowing training and other flights over these pristine areas would be damaging not only to the wildlife and to the human inhabitants, but to the tourism industry. Imagine you are a foreign visitor standing on Hurricane Ridge, enjoying the serenity and the panoramic views that you came hundreds, if not thousands of miles to enjoy only to have your senses assaulted by military aircraft on maneuvers. Do you think they would enjoy that intrusion? Would you?</p> <p>Another concern of mine is that we already have a lot of air traffic in and</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS</li> </ol>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>around the Sequim/Port Angeles area. Daily we have large Coast Guard and Rescue helicopters flying over our house. We live south of the Sequim airport and experience noise and low flyovers from small aircraft at all hours. We live in an area where almost every community has a small airport and personal aircraft that use them daily. In addition, we are sometimes in the flight path of commercial airliners. This is all on top of the loud military jets that already periodically rumble over the area. If you add even more air traffic it will make this area much less desirable, less safe, and would likely have a negative effect on property values as well as the mental and physical health of the large senior population. Fifty-five percent of the people in Sequim are 55 or older. Many are veterans and aircraft noise is already a factor against the quality of life here for many.</p> <p>I hope that the U.S. Navy will listen to the public's call to preserve the peace and tranquility in and around our National Park and forest lands, rather than wage a war on the senses. Just because the population density is low here doesn't mean our quality of life isn't important. Most of us have moved here from other parts of the state or country to escape the congestion and noise of the cities and to be immersed in nature and enjoy all that the Olympic Peninsula offers in the way of relaxation and recreation. The tourists come here for the same thing. Additional flights over our area will have detrimental effects on the tourist experience and on the residents' quality of life.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	<p>Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Nicholson-1	<p>This is not a time to be adding threats to marine mammals. The effects of sonar on these beings is horrific. I'm stunned that anyone would think to prioritize sonar activities (for any reason) over the health and well being of live beings in their home. This is egregious. Your comment form instructs to leave a substantive comment. Substantive... as loud as your sonar that kills marine mammals? Sonar you want to unleash in the home waters of the Southern Resident Killer Whales? Quite frankly, I'm tired of the onus being on us, to reign in the irresponsible and bad behavior of groups like yours. Navy sonar has been well documented in recklessly killing and causing suffering. If you're still asking for substantive comments, then have you heard the previous substantive comments and studies others have done on your behalf?</p> <p>Defense? You're killing everything worth defending. Put an end to that please, rethink.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Nicholson-2	<p>I/We have just learned of an EIS put out by the U.S. Navy on March 29, which is very disturbing to me/us. The only EIS alternative that is acceptable is the No Action Alternative. The other options given are unacceptable to the environment and life on the Olympic Peninsula. Alternatives 1 and 2 would cause unforgiveable and unnecessary damage to Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Alternative 2 is the most extreme.</p> <p>The length of the EIS, the great area it affects, and the many people it affects requires a 90- day comment period. This, so the EIS can be examined properly and thoroughly. Please ask the Navy for another 30-day extension of the comment period.</p> <p>The noise from multiple jet flights over the western and northern parts of the Peninsula will chase residents and visitors away. This will affect the health and economy of the Peninsula and the state. The search pattern of jet Growler flights looking for emitters would roar above the ocean beaches; the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges; Washington State Department of Natural Resources land; Quinault, Quileute and Hoh Reservations; and thousands of acres of private land, including the towns of Forks and Amanda Park. The Navy admits to 85–100 decibels of noise per pass. That is enough to cause hearing loss and contribute to other health problems. While noise is known to affect people and no studies have been done on the iconic Olympic elk, it is not difficult to reason they would be similarly affected.</p> <p>The military training in the Marine Sanctuary would do damage to the ocean beaches, the marine animals of the coast, the nesting areas of many of Washington's shorebirds, migrating whales, and the birds that use the Pacific Flyway. The Navy has denied flying over Olympic National Park. This is untrue. Not only is this untrue, it is impossible not to fly these missions over the Park.</p> <p>This degradation of the Olympic Peninsula's environment is unacceptable. For 112 years, Congress and presidents have set aside areas of the Peninsula to protect its valuable environment. Irreparable damage would be caused if the activities are done as stated in the Navy EIS/OEIS March 2019 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Training and Testing. Please stop this plan by the Navy. The training has been done elsewhere. It can be done elsewhere. Wild places are not empty places just waiting for an invasion by the military. Our national security must also include environmental security.</p>	<p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Nickelson-1	<p>We just learned of an EIS put out by the US Navy on March 29 and appreciate your reviewing our comments on it.</p> <p>First, an EIS as long and complicated as this one, the large affected area, and the many people it affects requires a full 90-day comment period, so that people can thoroughly examine all the consequences of this proposed action. Please request another 14-day extensive of the comment period, currently only through June 12.</p> <p>We are lifelong residents of Washington State, and routinely use the Olympic Peninsula, including Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest, for camping, hiking, boating, bird and other wildlife watching, and photography. This proposed action will not only extremely adversely affect our recreation, but more importantly, will negatively affect the people who live there, including several Native American tribes, as well as adverse effects on both terrestrial and marine wildlife.</p> <p>The extremely loud noise from multiple jet flights over the western and northern parts of the Olympic Peninsula will destroy the wilderness that residents, tourists, and wildlife need, and that the Park and National Marine Sanctuary were created to protect. The Navy has admitted that the noise can be 85-100 decibels per pass of each jet, and search patterns may be flown for 16 hours a day up to 260 days per year (5,000 Growler jet flights per year). This level of noise can cause hearing damage, as well as disrupt normal bird, wildlife, and marine mammal behavior, especially during breeding season. The EIS does not adequately research the adverse effects this level and duration of noise will cause to all the wildlife living on the Peninsula, but especially those that are listed as threatened or endangered.</p> <p>Flights will be conducted over the National Marine sanctuary, and marine mammals are well documented to be very sound sensitive. This will clearly adversely affect the very marine mammals the sanctuary was designed to protect.</p> <p>Finally this proposal will adversely affect the economy of the Peninsula, which is heavily dependent on tourism dollars. People routinely spend \$297 million per year in communities near the park, which supports over 3,500 jobs. Tourists will simply not come to a place where they are being buzzed and deafened by jets.</p> <p>We strongly support the NO Action Alternative. The other options will cause irreparable harm to the people and environment of the Peninsula. The Navy has trained for decades in other areas (Idaho, Nevada) that are not as environmentally sensitive. Our national security does not require the</p>	<p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	destruction of unique and irreplaceable habitats (including the only temperate rainforest in the United States). Thank you for seriously considering our comments in this matter of great importance.	
Nickum-01	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Please see attached for the full comment letter from 10 organizations: Seattle Aquarium, Washington Environmental Council, Whale Scout, Wild Orca, Orca Network, Endangered Species Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife, Natural Resources Defense Council, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, and Friends of the San Juans. The attached letter details our specific concerns about impacts on the Southern Resident orcas, which are at serious risk of extinction, and provides inputs, clarifications and additional scientific literature that should be considered in the analysis.	See responses below.
Nickum-02	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). The 10 organizations listed below would like to submit the following inputs, clarifications and additional scientific literature that should be considered in the analysis. We are specifically concerned about impacts on the Southern Resident orcas, which are at serious risk of extinction. The DSEIS indicates that the Navy plans to increase the frequency of several activities, including warfare testing and at-sea and pierside sonar testing, within Southern Resident orca habitat. We strongly believe this iconic species is currently, and will continue to be, directly affected by such training and testing activities. 1. Navy impacts on Southern Resident orcas were in fact recognized as an issue by the Orca Task Force in Washington state. The DSEIS inaccurately claims that “Navy actions were not the sources for any of the identified threats” in the report by the Southern Resident Orca Task Force (Office of the Washington Governor, 2018) (page 3.4-46). In fact, concerns about the Navy’s use of sonar equipment impacting the Southern Residents was raised in the very first Orca Task Force meeting (5/1/2018 meeting minutes). Recommendation 25 in the final report was “Coordinate with the Navy in 2019 to discuss reduction of noise and disturbance affecting Southern Resident orcas from military exercises and Navy aircraft.” It further continued: “The governor should meet with the U.S. Navy’s Commanding Officer for the region that includes Washington state to address the acoustic and physical impacts to Southern Resident	The Task Force Final Report did not identify Navy sonar among the major threats. The major threats identified in the report are a lack of prey, disturbance from noise and vessel traffic, and toxic contaminants in the waters they inhabit. The Navy, as acknowledged by the Governor’s Task Force in 2018, was not previously requested to participate in the Task Force, and the Navy was not made aware of conversations held during meetings in 2018. The Navy has since been invited to take part and, as a result, a team of Navy subject matter experts and Navy officers began to participate with the Task Force’s working groups on prey and vessel traffic. The Navy participated in the Governor’s Task Force, as the group identified ways to support recovery efforts for the Southern Resident killer whales. The Navy has also been a key contributor to marine species monitoring projects for a number of years to advance scientific knowledge of Southern Resident killer whales and the salmon they rely on. For decades, the Navy has implemented habitat improvement projects on its installations in Puget Sound that benefit the Southern Residents.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>orcas from Naval exercises in waters and air of Washington state. The governor should request the Navy participate on the Vessels working group in Year Two and identify actions to reduce the Navy's impacts to Southern Resident orcas" (emphases added) (Office of the Washington Governor, 2018).</p> <p>In addition, potential impacts from Naval activities are recognized as a threat to Southern Resident orca survival and recovery in both the U.S. and Canada Southern Resident orca recovery plans.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2018. Amended Recovery Strategy for the Northern and Southern Resident Killer Whales (<i>Orcinus orca</i>) in Canada. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series, Fisheries &amp; Oceans Canada, Ottawa, ix + 83 pp; National Marine Fisheries Service 2008. Recovery Plan for Southern Resident Killer Whales (<i>Orcinus orca</i>). National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Seattle, Washington.</p>	
Nickum-03	<p>2. Given the small size of the endangered Southern Resident orca population today, and the fact that they travel in groups, harm to a single individual orca can easily mean a population-level effect.</p> <p>Each individual orca in the current population matters if the population is to avoid extinction. There has been a net loss of 12 individual Southern Resident orcas since 2011. The population has continued to decline since the 2015 NWTT EIS. In 2016, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) declared that Southern Resident orcas are one of the marine species most at risk of extinction nationwide. The final EIS will need to be updated with the latest number of Southern Resident orcas alive today, which is currently fewer than the 77 stated in the draft.</p> <p>The DSEIS states that "the use of sonar and other transducers during training activities as described under Alternative 1 will result in the unintentional taking of killer whales incidental to those activities" (page 3.4-190). The DSEIS Fact Sheet Booklet states that 99.84% of all estimated takes of marine mammals would be Level B harassment, disrupting natural behavior patterns such as feeding, surfacing, nursing, breeding, sheltering or migration to those point where those patterns are abandoned or significantly altered. These—and especially feeding, breeding, and nursing—are all critical activities for the Southern Resident orcas now, given that they have produced only two surviving calves in the last three years, at least two orcas are visibly emaciated, and nutritional stress is recognized as a primary threat to the population. Up to 69% of all detectable pregnancies between 2008 and 2014 were unsuccessful, and low availability of Chinook salmon appeared to be a significant cause of late</p>	<p>There are several sources of abundance numbers for marine mammal species. For consistency, the Navy uses abundance numbers of Southern Resident killer whales (as well as other marine mammal species) provided by NMFS in the most recent Stock Assessment Report. The Navy tracks this species closely and will continue to use the most recent available data.</p> <p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Please read the discussion of the event involving the USS SHOUP presented in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and the cited U.S. Department of the Navy (2004) <i>Report on the Results of the Inquiry into Allegations of Marine Mammal Impacts Surrounding the Use of Active Sonar by USS SHOUP (DDG 86) in the Haro Strait on or about 5 May 2003</i>. Pearl</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>pregnancy failure (Wasser et al. 2017); Level B harassment by Navy activities that interferes with both feeding and breeding or displaces orcas from preferred foraging areas is of significant concern and will further contribute to the Southern Resident orcas' low reproductive success. Table 3.4-40 in the DSEIS estimates two behavioral impacts to Southern Resident orcas per year from sonar and other transducers. It is unclear whether that means just two individual orcas will likely be affected; if so, we question whether that is realistic given that pods of orcas travel together. We are particularly concerned about new and increased impacts to Southern Resident orcas from mine explosives, which can cause injury or death, and the use of mid-frequency sonar, which, according to the Navy's own estimates, can impact the orcas beyond 16km from the source (DSEIS, Table 3.4-13, p. 3.4-150); this is well outside the reasonable area that marine mammal observers are able to survey to record marine mammal sightings and initiate mitigation measures. In fact, military exercises have been documented to impact orcas right here in the Salish Sea (see next section).</p> <p>In a population with strong family ties, the loss of one orca also directly affects the others' chance of survival. When a female resident orca dies, it increases the mortality risk of her male offspring under age 30 by 3.1 times, and the mortality risk of her male offspring over age 30 by 8.3 times (Foster et al. 2012).<sup>2</sup> In late 2018 and early 2019, for example, it was reported that male Southern Resident orca K25 was observed to be doing poorly after the death of his mother, K13.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>3. There are documented cases in this region of U.S. and Canadian naval activities, including active sonar training and explosive testing, causing direct harm to the Southern Resident orcas.</p> <p>In 2003, an active sonar training exercise conducted by the U.S. Navy in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca and Haro Strait caused one of the Southern Resident killer whale families (J pod) to stop foraging and exhibit abnormal behaviors and movement, change direction multiple times, and group together in shallow water where they are at increased risk of stranding. In a video recording of the incident, sonar can clearly be heard above the water.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>More recent incidents involving testing of sonar and explosives by the Canadian Navy in Southern Resident orca habitat are examples of the potential impact of the activities proposed in this DSEIS. A juvenile Southern Resident female was stranded in 2012 with evidence of trauma consistent with an explosion or high-pressure impact, a week after the</p>	<p>Harbor, HI: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for an accurate understanding of the event involving the USS SHOUP in 2003.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Canadian Navy had been conducting sonar exercises in the region. An exact cause of death was not determined, but experts in underwater noise who continue to review her case believe that the most likely cause of death was an underwater military explosion.<sup>5</sup> In 2017, explosives detonated by the Canadian Navy near a group of Southern Residents (L pod) caused the whales to group together suddenly and flee the area. These examples show that just one incident of training and testing activities impacting Southern Residents can cause significant harm, death, or displacement from preferred habitat.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Foster, et al. Adaptive Prolonged Postreproductive Life Span in Killer Whales. Science, Sept. 14, 2012, 337:6100, pp. 1313.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> <a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/i-am-worried-and-i-am-afraid-two-more-puget-sound-orcas-predicted-to-die-in-critically-endangered-population/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/i-am-worried-and-i-am-afraid-two-more-puget-sound-orcas-predicted-to-die-in-critically-endangered-population/</a></p> <p><sup>4</sup> See video from Center for Whale Research, available: <a href="https://youtu.be/O9gDk29Y_YY">https://youtu.be/O9gDk29Y_YY</a>; and “Navy sonar incident alarms experts,” Kitsap Sun, May 8, 2003, <a href="https://products.kitsapsun.com/archive/2003/05-08/142143_navy_sonar_incident_alarms_expe.html">https://products.kitsapsun.com/archive/2003/05-08/142143_navy_sonar_incident_alarms_expe.html</a></p> <p><sup>5</sup> See: “Could Naval activities threaten orca recovery?” Beam Reach, <a href="http://www.beamreach.org/2012/03/05/naval-activities-threaten-orca-recovery">http://www.beamreach.org/2012/03/05/naval-activities-threaten-orca-recovery</a></p>	
Nickum-04	<p>4. Other agencies and operators are taking new, meaningful steps to reduce noise and disturbance affecting Southern Resident orcas. The Navy must also increase its protections, or it will become responsible for a larger share of the cumulative impact and potentially negate some of the benefits of the other actions being taken.</p> <p>In 2019, Washington state has taken big steps to reduce impacts on Southern Resident orcas from other vessel types, recognizing that noise and disturbance have significant adverse consequences for this endangered population. In May 2019, Governor Inslee signed into law a bill that increases the distance that vessels must stay away from the Southern Residents and enacts a 7-knot speed limit within a half nautical mile of these orcas. The legislature also allocated funding for a new hybrid ferry and funding to convert some ferries to hybrid-electric power. Washington State Ferries is also doing a baseline noise inventory and developing solutions to address noise and frequencies of concern. Meanwhile, in 2019, voluntary ship slowdowns will continue and expand for the third year through the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority-led Enhancing Cetacean</p>	<p>The Navy is fully aware of the plight of the Southern Resident killer whales. In 2019 a team of Navy subject matter experts and Navy officers began to participate with the Governor’s Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force working groups on prey and vessel traffic. The Navy participated in the Governor’s Task Force, as the group identified ways to support recovery efforts for the Southern Resident killer whales.</p> <p>The Navy developed mitigation areas to further avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine mammals in areas that are particularly important for biological life processes, such as feeding and migration.</p> <p>Procedural mitigation measures already in place and proposed to continue include ceasing activities that could be harmful to marine mammals when marine mammals are detected within defined mitigation zones.</p> <p>The Navy has also been a key contributor to marine species monitoring projects for a number of years to advance scientific knowledge of Southern</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Habitat and Observation (ECHO) Program – a Canadian program that directly benefits Southern Resident orcas in the inland waters. The Navy should increase its own mitigation efforts so that there is still a significant net benefit to the Southern Residents in terms of reduced noise and disturbance when all these other entities are increasing their protective measures.	Resident killer whales and the salmon they rely on. For decades, the Navy has implemented habitat improvement projects on its installations in Puget Sound that benefit the Southern Residents.
Nickum-05	5. The designation for Southern Resident orca critical habitat is likely to change later this year. The Navy should not make final decisions about training and testing in the potential new critical habitat areas off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California until this designation has been made. NMFS has committed to proposing a rule with an expanded designation of critical habitat off Washington, Oregon and California by early October 2019 – an area encompassed by the NWTT range. Advancing this SEIS now for activities in an area that is on the cusp of being designated as critical habitat is irresponsible. The Navy should wait until NMFS makes its final designation for expanded critical habitat before pursuing activities that would adversely affect the area. Changes in the Navy's mitigation measures are likely to be necessary so that the proposed action does not "result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat."	The Navy has consulted with NMFS on designated critical habitat as required under the Endangered Species Act. The Navy has been aware of the proposed revision to Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat. As NMFS noted in the Proposed Rule, during preparations for the revision to the critical habitat, NMFS provided the Navy (and other DoD entities) with information regarding the areas under consideration for Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat, and requested the Navy identify areas they own or control which may overlap with the areas under consideration. NMFS also asked the Navy to identify any impacts to national security that might arise from the proposed designation of critical habitat. The Navy included discussions of the proposed critical habitat in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Nickum-06	6. Recent variations in Southern Resident orca presence in the Salish Sea are complex and should not be an excuse for exercising less caution in the inland waters. The DSEIS states that "foraging during the spring in Salish Sea by Southern Resident killer whales has declined in recent years as they shift their range and forage for Chinook salmon or other prey species elsewhere in response to reduced prey availability in that historically used inland waters foraging area" (p. 3.4-26). These inland waters are a place where foraging areas were very important historically; they also represent areas where recovery gains could be made if there are adequate protections. Even spending time elsewhere, Southern Resident orcas are not getting enough food and are showing signs of malnutrition. The inland waters foraging area is still critically important if they are going to survive and thrive. In recognition of this fact, state and federal governments are actively working to restore salmon populations in the inland waters. It is difficult to predict orca presence on a long-term or even annual basis, and the Navy should not assume that the shift outside of the Salish Sea in the spring and summer is a permanent change. The Southern Resident orcas are still sighted in the Salish Sea frequently. In fact, Olson et al. 2018 noted that K and L pods have been increasing the	The statements quoted from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS are part of an establishment of the environmental baseline the Navy then uses to estimate potential impacts resulting from the Navy's activities. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. The commenter incorrectly asserts that the Navy suggests that protective measures in the Salish Sea are less important; however, the Navy has not suggested that and does not consider that to be true. The mitigation measures developed for both NWTT Inland Waters and the NWTT Offshore Area for the Proposed Action represent an increase over the mitigation developed for the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>duration of their stay in the inland waters by staying in the Salish Sea through the fall and into the early winter.<sup>6</sup> The Navy should consult with orca biologists to gather other recent information, in addition to reviewing recent published literature on Southern Resident orca presence in the Salish Sea.</p> <p>The DSEIS implies that changes in the Southern Residents' presence in the Salish Sea mean that protections there are less important than they used to be. In fact, it should be reason for an extra layer of caution. Reducing noise and disturbance in the heavily-trafficked inland waters could enable the Southern Residents to forage there more effectively and therefore spend more time there as they have historically. Recent information on foraging locations should not be interpreted as a reason to decrease or discontinue mitigation efforts to avoid impacts to Southern Residents in the Salish Sea. Additionally, the Navy should consider that when the Southern Resident orcas are not in inland waters, they are likely to be in their offshore area, which is subject to additional training and testing activities that do not occur in the Salish Sea. The Navy should consider additional mitigation and monitoring in the orcas' offshore habitat given the potential increased use of this area and the unique activities—such as active sonar—that take place in this portion of the NWT range.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> Olson, JK, J Wood, RW Osborne, L Barrett-Lennard, S Larson. 2018. Sightings of southern resident killer whales in the Salish Sea 1976-2014: the importance of a long-term opportunistic dataset. <i>Endan. Species Res.</i> 37:105-118. <a href="https://doi.org/10.3354/esr00918">https://doi.org/10.3354/esr00918</a></p>	
Nickum-07	<p>7. The EIS should include two additional studies related to impacts on Southern Resident orcas: Wieland et al. 2010 and Emmons et al. 2019. Wieland, M., A. Jones, and S. C. P. Renn. 2010. Changing durations of Southern Resident killer whale 23 (<i>Orcinus orca</i>) discrete calls between two periods spanning 28 years. <i>Mar. Mam. Sci.</i> 26(1):195–201. This study found that the Southern Residents make a behavioral adjustment as a result of vessel noise, as measured through an increase in mean durations of discrete calls. “Because they are adjusting their vocal behavior, we must consider the very real possibility that engine noise is hindering their ability to communicate, and may well impact their efficiency at using acoustics to forage and navigate, as well” (Wieland et al. 2010). These findings should be incorporated into 3.4.2.1.1.4 on masking (page 3.4.103, which talks about other species but not killer whales) and into the odontocete discussion on page 3.4-120.</p> <p>Emmons, C.K., M.B. Hanson, and M.O. Lammers. 2019. Monitoring the</p>	<p>Wieland et al., 2010 was incorporated in Section 3.4.1.7.4 of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS as recommended by the commenter.</p> <p>The Navy-funded research presented in Emmons et al. 2019 was considered in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, but the report was not cited because it was still in the process of being edited by the authors and had not been finalized. The report has since been finalized and is cited in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Navy does not frequently conduct training or testing activities in the location of the Cape Flattery Offshore hydrophone since that area is highly utilized by commercial vessel traffic, making it an undesirable location for the Navy to conduct activities, especially sonar training or testing.</p> <p>The Navy developed mitigation areas to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on Southern Resident killer whales and other</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>occurrence of Southern Resident killer whales, other marine mammals, and anthropogenic sound in the Pacific Northwest. Prepared for: U.S. Navy, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, HI. Prepared by: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Northwest Fisheries Science Center under MIPR N00070-17-MP-4C419. 25 February 2019. 23p.</p> <p>This report states that there were 148 mid-frequency active sonar events detected between 2011 and 2017, with the peak overlapping with occurrence of the three killer whale communities (including Southern Residents). This is concerning because, as the DSEIS states, exposure to mid-frequency sonar has been directly linked to separation of a killer whale calf from its group (page 3.4-102); the separation and loss of a single calf would be a serious blow to the small population, given that there are so few calves and the southern residents have had limited reproductive success in recent years. Exposure to mid-frequency sonar has also been directly linked to mass strandings of cetaceans (page 3.4-127). In addition, the DSEIS states that newer high-duty or continuous active sonars have more potential to mask vocalizations, particularly for mid-frequency cetaceans like killer whales, and “longer-term consequences could include potential decrease in recruitment” (p. 3.4-102). The Southern Resident orcas cannot afford any further decrease in their already very low recruitment rates. The findings from Emmons et al. 2019 regarding seasonal use of different offshore areas by Southern Resident orcas and other whales should also be used to minimize adverse impacts by shifting sonar and explosives testing and training by season and by location.</p>	<p>marine species in key foraging, breeding, and migration habitat areas, as described in Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment). For the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy developed several new mitigation measures specific to Southern Resident killer whales. For example, in the NWTT Offshore Area, the Navy developed a new mitigation area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, which encompasses waters off Cape Flattery. The Navy’s mitigation now includes annual limits on hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar and prohibits explosive Mine Countermeasures and Neutralization Testing in the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area. All other explosive activities are required to be conducted 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. In addition, the Navy developed a new mitigation to issue annual awareness notification messages to alert ships and aircraft to the possible presence of increased concentrations of Southern Resident killer whales seasonally, which will further help avoid potential impacts from vessel movements and training and testing activities on this species.</p>
Nickum-08	<p>8. New whale report alert systems should be used for real-time monitoring and early warnings to build on the limited capacity of lookouts. The Navy should explore the use of newly available apps and technology that provide real-time information on whale presence in the Salish Sea and along the coast. Using this technology could expand the ability of the Navy’s marine mammal observers to be aware of and respond to the presence of Southern Resident orcas. For example, the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS), developed by the British Columbia Cetacean Sightings Network, alerts mariners to the presence of whales so that mitigation measures may be enacted to reduce the risk of disturbance and collision. Orca Network, Whale Scout, and other organizations in Washington also contribute to a Whale Sighting Network with close to real-time reporting in the Salish Sea.</p>	<p>The Navy developed new mitigation for Navy biologists to initiate communication with the appropriate marine mammal detection networks in NWTT Inland Waters prior to conducting explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers, Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training, Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises, and Small Boat Attack Exercises. This mitigation will help the Navy plan activities in a way that minimizes the potential for exposure of Southern Resident killer whales, as described in Section K.3.3 (Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in NWTT Inland Waters). The Navy will also continue to assess the practicality of other available monitoring techniques as technologies advance.</p>
Nickum-09	<p>9. Additional information is needed on the anticipated timing of the proposed activities.</p>	<p>As stated in Section 2.3 (Proposed Activities), because of the nature of training and testing requirements for forces that must be ready to deploy at</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	The SEIS should detail the times of year during which the proposed activities will take place. The Southern Resident orcas have exhibited seasonality in their movements, and information from tagging studies, coastal surveys, and passive acoustic monitoring allows some degree of prediction for when and where they may be traveling and foraging. Any overlap in their seasonal movements and the Navy's testing and training activities will increase impacts on these species. Information about timing should be made public in the SEIS and the Navy should seek to adjust the timing of their activities to minimize such overlap.	all times, activities could occur throughout the year. The Navy added additional details on seasonality and day/night requirements of its activities to Appendix A (Navy Activities Descriptions) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Navy did consider seasonal movements and behaviors of marine species in its effect analysis. The Navy developed mitigation areas to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species either seasonally or year-round in key foraging, breeding, and migration habitats, as described in Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment).  The duration of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS is for the foreseeable future, while the Marine Mammal Protection Act permits would be in place for seven years.
Nickum-10	10. Increasing the Navy's testing and training activities at this time is counter to what the endangered Southern Resident orcas need right now to have a chance at recovery. Without bold and immediate actions, the Southern Residents are likely to go extinct within our lifetimes. Everything we can do now to protect the Southern Resident orcas is critical. In a time when we should be acting to address and decrease threats facing the population, including reducing noise and disturbance, the Navy's proposed activities increase the risks from ocean noise, vessel strikes and disturbance, potential direct harm and injury to Southern Resident orcas, and displacement from preferred habitat. The Navy must consider the current crisis facing the endangered Southern Resident orcas and make new adjustments in its testing and training activities. Despite being listed under the Endangered Species Act for nearly 14 years, this unique population is not recovering and is continuing to decline. It is obvious that status quo actions, including the Navy's training and testing activities, are not serving the Southern Resident orcas. Given their highly endangered status and continuing decline, the Navy should be considering how to reduce impacts and increase protections for Southern Resident orcas. Thank you for your consideration of our input and concerns as you finalize the SEIS.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Niemi-1	The Navy has to be aware of the detriment sonar testing has on our oceans cetaceans. Do not do any sonar testing in the Salish Sea, we need to protect the Orca and all cetaceans, not put their lives at risk.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nieto-1	I only want to express my opinion against sonar testing in the ocean, because it harms marine animals. I disagree with any type of weapon testing in the ocean, as well as our misunderstanding of the ocean as humans, since we seem to think it is our dumping place and our limitless source of food. Look where it has got us. Please, we must change, we must learn to respect life, we must use our intelligence with sensitivity or else we cannot argue being superior to any other life form, but on the contrary, the stupidest and cruelest animal on Earth.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nigon-1	I've seen pictures of dead whales with blood around their ears beached near where sonar is happening. I've read numerous articles about Hawaii and their trying to limit sonar use to protect the whales. It makes me shudder knowing how sounds travels underwater that marine life is subjected to this in their natural environment. I've been on whale watch boats and seen the whales, once up close and eye to eye. It was unforgettable. Please stop! There must be remote areas where sonar wouldn't harm so many sea creatures.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nijkamp-1	The sonar testing in the ocean that is currently happening is extremely harmful to marine mammals in various ways. Please stop harming and disturbing them!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nishime-1	I 100% am against sonar testing that leaves many marine animals in distress! Can you imagine blowing a blow horn into a dog's ears and giving them hearing loss, and then saying that it is a valid military practice?	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Especially in this climate, the animals need rights too. And at the end of the day we need to help them survive so they can sustain the very waters we rely on. There needs to be a level of co-existence. The military does not need the reputation of being the world's bullies.	Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Niski-1	Please do not do this! Our planet is in peril and it's inhabitants are going extinct due to habitat destruction and this includes our oceans. Your time would be better spent cleaning our oceans than assaulting it's inhabitants. The Puget Sounds southern resident Orcas are especially vulnerable with only 75 members left and your sonar training will be the final nail in their coffins. I beg you please do not do this.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Niski-2	Please do not do this! Our planet is in peril and it's inhabitants are going extinct due to habitat destruction and this includes our oceans. Your time would be better spent cleaning our oceans then assaulting it's inhabitants. The Puget Sounds southern resident Orcas especially only have 75 members left and your sonar training will be the final nail in their coffins. I beeg you please do not do this.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Nixon-1	There is an entire ocean just seconds from your take off area!!! Why oh why not use IT?? All this pain and risk of alienation, anger, potential damage to all life forms we depend upon out here could be avoided and you could still do your training. For those of us who moved cross country here to retire in peace, this noise is much more than annoyance, it is assault and an imprisonment imposed upon us that we cannot escape. And IT IS AVOIDABLE!! We are still a nation of the people aren't we? Take it way offshore and we are all ok!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Nixon-2	I am absolutely appalled that there is even a proposal about adding such terrible noise and disruptive air power to our area here in the Northwest. It amounts to destruction of all the peace we moved from Indiana out here for!!! Please please make other plans!!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Nobblett-1	STOP IT NOW !!! You are threatening the lives of an Endangered species and should be ashamed of yourselves ! There is simply NO NEED our SRKW are already fighting for their lives and you threaten their existence again ! Ashamed to be human!!!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Nobblett-2	<p>... appalling that in 2019, I have to fill in forms, call, email, post on social media to protect our oceans and all Trying to live in it !!</p> <p>I would expect the Navy, any Navy to be the leaders in conservation - and not running riot rough shot without a care for the creatures in the ocean ....</p> <p>Have you learnt nothing ? Protect Protect Protect !!!!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Nolet-1	<p>Sonar testing is damaging to local marine mamals such as the pod of endangered southern resident orcas. Although I understand the requirement of the navy to practice drills for coastal waters protection, this is unacceptable behaviour when it is so close to marine animals that are so entwined in our ecosystem. It is mandatory that the navy consider the effects on the ecosystem when running these tests and drilld such as taking the testing and drills elsewhere off the coast or working with local biologists and organizations to find ways where all parties can benefit/ are not being harmed.</p> <p>Kind regards from a local biology student and concerned citizen.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Nordquist-1	<p>We're writing to you about the Navy's EIS/OEIS March 2019 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Training &amp; Testing. As constituents of yours and residents of the Olympic Peninsula, we find the proposed increase in Growler jets and the use of this area as an electronic warfare training area to be extremely disturbing.</p> <p>The only EIS alternative that is even faintly acceptable to us is the No</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Action Alternative. The other options given will create unacceptable negative impacts to natural ecological systems, and to residents and visitors of this area. The likely negative impacts to Olympic National Park (ONP) and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) are significant. Alternative 2 in particular is profoundly atrocious. The ONP and OCNMS were established by Congress to protect the unparalleled wildlife, ecosystems and landscapes of this corner of the country, and to provide ways for visitors to learn about and appreciate these treasures. The intrusions of hundreds of deafening warplanes into these protected spaces are an affront to your institution that protected them, and to the hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors who are subjected to these disturbing intrusions.</p> <p>We are asking you to help stop this abuse of our national parks, national marine sanctuaries, national forests, private lands, and overall airspace. Please exercise your authority on our behalf to reign in the Navy's unnecessary, costly and misguided expansion of training into the Olympic Peninsula region.</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol>
Norman D-1	<p>This is terrible and disturbing to hear. No being should be subjected to this damaging and terrifying noise in their natural environment. This is their home. This sonar needs to stop to maintain their well-being and existence. Stop sonar testing.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Norman R-1	<p>Our pristine wilderness is of far greater value than any supposed military need to violate her sacred places with ugly needless sound, and aims of dominance and war. Here we see the sacred, violated. This is wrong, a</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	parasitism upon the sacred. No planes are permitted in this area...how ugly amd wrong...no foolish boat of weapons and hate is welcome here, in this sacred place. Leave. Leave us in paece, and never return. Sanity, has spoken.	The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Norris-1	We can not continue to put marine mammals and the ocean's inhabitants at risk with these tests. With the increase of plastic and ocean pollution at an all time high, and a decrease in fish to sustain these animals, further stress and trauma is absolutely unnecessary. Our Whale populations are diminishing and we are seeing them wash up on shore at record numbers. Please consider how sensitive these creatures are and help protect their wellbeing. No more testing in our waters. Thank you.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nouza-1	I am 100%opposed to this idea. Our killer whale populations are in severe decline and their numbers are drastically threatened. We need to preserve and protect this species and this plan is not beneficial to dwindling orca populations.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nugent J-1	I am against any sonar testing done in our ocrean waters here in Northern California off the Mendocino Coast line. As you must know the Gray Whales are dying in large numbers up here. Because there is not enough food for them and the large frieghters are going to fast. Also the Common Murre bird has been dying at a great amount. Last week we found 59 dead birds on the Manchester State Beach. Yesterday we found 22 more dead Murre birds on the beach or in the tide. We don't want you to test in our fragile enviroment. Please keep me informed if you decide to test here because I will start a petition to stop your sonar testing. I know many people here will be against it	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Sincerely, Joyce Nugent	
Nugent K-1	There is NOT substantial evidence that the training practices MUST be performed over the delicate ecosystem of the Olympic peninsula. Please stop!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nunez-1	Please stop conducting these tests, you are harming animals and causing damage.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Nutter-1	THE DELETERIOUS AND LETHAL EFFECTS OF SONAR ON MARINE MAMMALS ARE WELL DOCUMENTED. THE NAVY MUST NOT TEST SONAR AND WEAPONS ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST'S WHALE MIGRATORY PATH. THE NAVY MUST LEAVE A 100-MILE TEST-FREE CORRIDOR ALONG THE ENTIRE PACIFIC COAST NOT ONLY FOR GRAY WHALE BUT ALSO FOR HUMPBACK AND BLUE WHALE MIGRATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE YEAR!. The Navy must stop using sonar within 100 miles of Pacific Coast from Washington to lower California. Leave a 100 mile corridor with no testing of any kind to protect the gray whales during their migration (Nov-May) & the humpbacks & blue whales from May to October!	The Navy's mitigation involves numerous distance-from-shore restrictions for active sonar, explosive, and non-explosive training and testing activities. For example, the Navy will not conduct explosive training or explosive testing (except explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing) 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. For the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy developed several new mitigation measures, including development a new mitigation area known as the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area. It would not be practical for the Navy to prohibit all training or testing activities within 100 miles from shore for the reasons described in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), Chapter 5 (Mitigation), and Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Nutter-2	1) HOW WILL SEIS ADDRESS THE WILDLIFE EMERGENCY JUST ANNOUNCED BY NOAA? There is a wildlife emergency globally and it is occurring in our oceans and is clearly present in the Pacific Ocean along the northwest coast where the Navy plans to do its weapons testing. <a href="https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whaledeaths- reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/">https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whaledeaths- reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/</a> <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-westcoast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-westcoast-1.5119056</a> <a href="https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murresunderway-along-the-mendocino-">https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murresunderway-along-the-mendocino-</a>	The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	coast/?fbclid=IwAR1jCzAbxz10sGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVP5f7_uo6vlpJF7Dhvc4A7TSgn19HVXk	
Nutter-3	<p>2) HOW WILL SEIS LIMIT HARM TO MARINE LIFE CAUSED BY SONAR AND EXPLOSIVES AND THEIR TOXINS? There is irrefutable evidence that sonar bursts or leads to burst eardrums and that explosion underwater of mines and missiles are full of toxins that are detrimental to marine life. SEIS states that "military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor" and will be incidentally ingested by bottom feeders. The Navy and Fisheries Service estimate that over the current plan's five-year period, training and testing activities will result in thousands of animals suffering permanent hearing loss, lung injuries or death. Millions of animals will be exposed to temporary injuries and disturbances with many subjected to multiple harmful exposures. U.S. Navy training exercises in the Pacific could kill, injure, or harass whales, dolphins and other marine mammals 12.5 million times over the next five years, according to the Marine Mammal Protection Act permits and final regulations. Explosions, sonar and ship strikes during Navy exercises could harm blue whales 9,248 times over the next five years and the short-beaked common dolphin 6.8 million times under the incidental take permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Gray whales are bottom feeders. Should the SEIS take this into account? Until NOAA's study of the die off on the gray whales is complete, will any disruption of the ocean by sonar and explosive activity be halted?</p> <p><a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a> Advances in Research on the impact of antisubmarine sonar on beaked whales:</p> <p><a href="https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2015/pacific-sonar-testing-04-01-2015.html">https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2015/pacific-sonar-testing-04-01-2015.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2018/navy-trainingexercises-12-20-2018.php">https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2018/navy-trainingexercises-12-20-2018.php</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/27/2018-27342/taking-and-importing-marine-mammals-taking-marine-mammals-incidental-to-the-us-navytraining-and">https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/27/2018-27342/taking-and-importing-marine-mammals-taking-marine-mammals-incidental-to-the-us-navytraining-and</a></p> <p><a href="https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-deadwhales-germany-animals/">https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-deadwhales-germany-animals/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/</a></p>	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Nutter-4	3) HOW CAN SEIS GUARANTEE PROTECTION OF THOUSANDS OF WHALES AND OTHER MARINE MAMMALS FROM SONAR AFTER FAILURE TO USE THE	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE TO ASSESS THE EXTENT AND DURATION OF IMPACTS TO WHALES AND OTHER MARINE MAMMALS? <a href="https://earthjustice.org/oews/press/2013/court-rules-that-federal-agency-failed-to-protect-thousands-of-whales-and-dolphins-from-navy-sonar">https://earthjustice.org/oews/press/2013/court-rules-that-federal-agency-failed-to-protect-thousands-of-whales-and-dolphins-from-navy-sonar</a>	and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Nutter-5	4) HOW WILL THE NAVY GUARANTEE LOOKOUTS WILL SIGHT WHALES IN THE AREA BEFORE USE OF SONAR AND EXPLOSIVES? The Navy claims they have lookouts watching for whales before the use of sonar and explosives and it is "very unlikely" to impact the feeding and migration of gray whales. How does the SEIS take into account whales "snorkeling activity" (surfacing quietly and exhaling without any visible blow) and fog and rough seas that make it near impossible to spot whales? A blue whale (the largest species on earth) was killed by a slow moving vessel in broad daylight on a clear day off the Mendocino Coast without being sighted! <a href="https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/2272706-181/fort-bragg-blue-whale-likely">https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/2272706-181/fort-bragg-blue-whale-likely</a>	As described in Section 5.2.1 (Procedural Mitigation Development), the Navy's analysis assumes that due to limitations such as those mentioned in the comment, Lookouts will not be 100% effective at detecting all individual marine mammals.
Nutter-6	5) HOW WILL THE NAVY GUARANTEE ITS COMMITMENT TO THE TRIBES THAT IT WILL NOT CONDUCT ITS WARFARE ACTIVITIES WITHIN 12 MILES OF THE COAST? WILL IT EXPAND THIS COMMITMENT TO INCLUDE USE OF SONAR? Tribes Letter to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, May 3, 2019.	The Navy does not conduct training or testing within 12 nautical miles of the coast of Oregon, Northern California, and much of Washington.
Nutter-7	6) THE SEIS MUST NOW REQUIRE A 100-MILE WIDE NAVY WEAPONS TEST-FREE CORRIDOR ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST DUE TO MULTI-SPECIES WHALE MIGRATION NOW OCCURRING YEAR ROUND. Gray whales migrate between Alaska and Baja, California from November to May, and blue whales and humpbacks are now being sighted farther north along the Pacific Coast probably due to ocean warming and altered food sources. <a href="https://whalesanddolphinsbc.com/sightings-in-2019/2019/06/humpback-whales-have-returned/">https://whalesanddolphinsbc.com/sightings-in-2019/2019/06/humpback-whales-have-returned/</a> <a href="https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/blue-whales-whale-watching-monterey-bay-summer-13161860.php">https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/blue-whales-whale-watching-monterey-bay-summer-13161860.php</a>	Please see response to Nutter-1.
<b>O</b>		
Oberweiser-1	I am opposed to the U.S. Navy's proposed expansion of its war training exercises off the coast of the Pacific Northwest and near the Arctic Circle. The Navy's proposed expansion of the use of low frequency sonar is already illegal according to a decision in 2016 by the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals. The Ninth Circuit court ruled that the National Marine Fisheries	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Service (NMFS) had illegally approved a permit authorizing the Navy to use its high-intensity long-range sonar - called low-frequency active sonar (or LFA) - in more than 70 percent of the world's oceans.</p> <p>The decision said the the low frequency active sonar LFA systems the Navy uses violates the Marine Mammal Protection Act and negatively impacts whales dolphins and walruses that rely on sound to navigate the seas and communicate with one another.</p> <p>I disagree with the assertion in the Draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that "long term consequences for the species or stocks would not be expected."</p> <p>U.S. Navy training exercises in the Pacific Ocean could kill, injure, or harass whales, dolphins and other marine mammals 12.5 million times over the next five years. That's according to Marine Mammal Protection Act permits and final regulations - <a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/27/2018-27342/taking-and-importing-marine-mammals-navy-training-and-testing-activities-in-the-hawaii-southern">https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/27/2018-27342/taking-and-importing-marine-mammals-navy-training-and-testing-activities-in-the-hawaii-southern</a> issued by the Trump administration.</p> <p>The proposed "precautions" against sonar exposure to marine mammals are inadequate. Sonar can travel much farther than on board observers are able to see. Designed for submarine detection over vast expanses of the deep sea, Low frequency active sonar (LFA) has the capacity to expose thousands of square miles to dangerous levels of noise.</p> <p>There are numerous recorded instances of major behavioral change by whales, porpoises and dolphins both along the U.S. coastlines and abroad that occurred when the Navy sonar was being used in training exercises nearby.</p> <p>More low frequency. active sonar in the path of whales' migration will seriously affect the mothers' abilities to communicate with their calves that were newly born in Mexico and are making their first major swim. These mammals are already endangered.</p> <p>According the Scientific American article at: <a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/?redirect=1">https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/?redirect=1</a>, "These waves can travel for hundreds of miles under water, and can retain an intensity of 140 decibels as far as 300 miles from their source. These rolling walls of noise are no doubt too much for some marine wildlife. While little is known about any direct physiological effects of sonar waves on marine species, evidence shows that whales will swim hundreds of miles, rapidly change their depth (sometime leading to bleeding from the eyes and ears), and even beach themselves to get away</p>	<p>Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>from the sounds of sonar."</p> <p>In a new study just published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B (<a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a>) scientists have found that naval sonar in certain frequencies is scaring whales so badly, or inducing a "flight or fight response" that their fear alters their diving behavior and quickens their heartrate, which in tum gives them the bends.</p> <p>"In the presence of sonar they are stressed and swim vigorously away from the sound source, changing their diving pattern," lead author Yara Bemaldo de Quiros, a researcher at the Institute of Animal Health at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, told AFP. The Pacific Northwest area's of the United States including Northern California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska are very dependent on the tourist and fishing industries for their economies to prosper. One of the most anticipated tourist attractions of the Pacific Northwest is the twice yearly migration of the Gray Whales from the Arctic Circle Down the coasts of Canada and the United States to Mexico in Baja California. The sight of the Gray Whales and many other marine mammals along the coastlines of the Pacific Northwest are also a large part of the tourist draw.</p> <p>I am calling upon the U.S. navy to stop using low frequency sonar anywhere near the Pacific Northwest coastline.</p> <p>I also oppose the releasing of 20,000 tons of environmental "stressors," including heavy metals and explosives, into the coastal waters of the U.S. Pacific Northwest.</p> <p>If the life in the ocean is killed by polluters including the the military, there will be no civilization for the world's armed forces to defend.</p>	
O'Brien T-1	<p>The Southern Residents have two more little orcas to feed, the calf born in December and the one born a few weeks ago. There are also two orcas slipping away due to the extreme lack of prey, J17 and J53. J17 is demonstrating "peanut head," a condition that indicates a significant loss of blubber. NOAA Fisheries are monitoring both orcas. Southern Residents are currently hunting for prey off the coasts hoping to find their primary food, Chinook salmon, which is also endangered and showing continued declines. Adding to the myriad human caused problems, the Department of the Navy has plans for doing training and testing in the very waters where our orcas are hunting.</p> <p>We respectfully request that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's EIS clearly indicates that the Southern Residents will be harmed by their testing and training activities, and that this is not</li> </ul>	<p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy has consulted with NMFS on designated critical habitat as required under the Endangered Species Act. The Navy has been aware of the proposed</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>acceptable. Our Southern Residents need quiet in order to “hear” their prey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the navy acknowledge that in 2003 during a training session, the J pod quit foraging and instead spent time and calories trying to leave the area instead of hunting and eating. Do not repeat this grave error.</li> <li>In pursuing these activities, the Navy violates the Endangered Species Act which should be protecting the orcas.</li> <li>The designation for the orcas’ critical habitat is under review and the Navy should not be allowed to move forward until the designation is final. Please, please, please respect the Southern Resident Orcas’ Endangered Species status and take steps to mitigate further harm. Please protect the critical habitat of the orcas and prohibit testing and training in these waters. Please ban sonar and explosives in these waters. Cease and desist any and all activities that can harm marine life.</li> </ul> <p>Our resident orca are treasures on the brink of extinction. Please do your part to mitigate any further harm.</p> <p>Many thanks! Tina</p>	<p>revision to Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat. As NMFS noted in the Proposed Rule, during preparations for the revision to the critical habitat, NMFS provided the Navy (and other DoD entities) with information regarding the areas under consideration for Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat, and requested the Navy identify areas they own or control which may overlap with the areas under consideration. NMFS also asked the Navy to identify any impacts to national security that might arise from the proposed designation of critical habitat. The Navy included discussions of the proposed critical habitat in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>Please read the discussion of the event involving the USS SHOUP presented in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and the cited U.S. Department of the Navy (2004) <i>Report on the Results of the Inquiry into Allegations of Marine Mammal Impacts Surrounding the Use of Active Sonar by USS SHOUP (DDG 86) in the Haro Strait on or about 5 May 2003</i>. Pearl Harbor, HI: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for an accurate understanding of the event involving the USS SHOUP in 2003.</p>
Oconnor K-1	<p>I attended the "informational" presentation that was put on by a marketing firm representing the Navy's proposal for more testing along the Northern California Coast, up through Oregon, through Washington, into Alaska. Those of us in attendance actually thought there would be a question and answer platform.</p> <p>There was not. We could neither hear each other, nor the presenters, whose voices actually got softer in volume as this sham continued( a technique used to keep crowds calm, although it had the reverse effect that evening)</p> <p>The glossy pictures of happy sea life was an insult. This WAS MARKETING AT IT'S WORSE.</p> <p>I have read volumes on the ACTUAL damage cased by Naval Training and Testing. Small villages along the Alaskan coast, including Cordova, that have not only suffered devastating loss to their salmon, but now have large levels of toxic chemicals in their once pristine waters.</p> <p>YOU HAVE to know that what you are trying to sell us is LIES.</p> <p>IF the Navy is doing all of this to protect us, what good is it going to do if our oceans and environment has been devastated?</p> <p>Quoting journalist, Dahr Jamail, "The Navy is increasingly focused on possible future climate-change conflicts in the melting waters of the north and, in that context, has little or no intention of caretaking the</p>	<p>The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	environment when it comes to military exercises." But then, according to POTUS, and the republican party, there is no climate change....	
O'Connor L-1	Please don't do this,.! Consider why it is being done! Is it REALLY nessesery????	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
O'Connor M-1	<p>It makes no sense to test sonar off our U.S. Northwest Coast. Why?</p> <p>1) There is no question that the marine life will be badly harmed including the grey whales who use this pathway for migration and depend on ecolocation. It has been proven time and again that sonar frequencies interfere with ecolocation. When marine life is damaged so is human life.</p> <p>2) The U.S. already has more weapons than any other country on the planet. It is absolutely not necessary to test for new weapons which will take funds away from much more pressing issues.</p> <p>3) The planet is in crisis now loosing species by the day with catastrophic climate change challenges around every corner. Spending resources on testing weapons at this point in time is immoral and fits the definition of insanity.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Oconnor P-1	It is imperative that the Navy stop sonar testing immediately! It is clearly disruptive and dangerous to orcas, dolphins, whales and likely all sea creatures. We need to check our human arrogance and have respect for all inhabitants of our planet. We must protect and preserve these beautiful and valuable animals. The Navy MUST STOP SONAR TESTING!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Octavia-1	I hope some people could help them.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Odland J-1	I oppose sonar being used in the Salish Sea. This is a dangerous practice against our Orca population and other sea mammals. Please find another	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>way to complete the testing that you need to complete. This is not a safe practice. Thank you.</p> <p>Julia Odland</p>	<p>and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Odland K-1	<p>I do not support this proposal because of the harm that will be caused to marine life, namely southern resident orcas, who are endangered species! Harming an endangered species goes against the rules of the ESA. The sonar noises could have detrimental impacts on marine life. Many scientists hold that these endangered orcas cannot take anymore disturbance; their population is close to collapse.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
O'donnell Ka-1	<p>STOP the sonar testing. It is harming the whales.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
O'donnell Kr-1	<p>To The Navy: Stand Down your Growlers and Underwater Training. It is killing life.</p> <p>Growler Noise is toxic to our health, our environment and economy. Studies show this harms humans, especially children. Real-time measurements taken at Ebey's Reserve near Coupeville show damaging levels of noise, up to 115 decibels—well past the 85-decibel level that begins to cause permanent hearing loss. (National Institutes of Health (nidcd.nih.gov/health/noise-induced-hearing-loss))</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Our water is toxic. Central and South Whidbey islanders have no access to fresh water apart from the aquifer underlying the island. This natural reservoir makes Whidbey Island habitable. One Growler crash could contaminate all of Central Whidbey's water supply and its single-source aquifer. •New studies reveal safe levels of these toxins is a tenth of the current EPA standard. Coupeville water is above the new limits. (<a href="https://theintercept.com/2018/02/10/firefighting-foam-afff-pfos-pfoa-epa/">https://theintercept.com/2018/02/10/firefighting-foam-afff-pfos-pfoa-epa/</a>)</p> <p>The run way is unsafe: The runway itself is unsafe. The 5,400-foot runway, built prior to 1943 to accommodate aircraft built in the 1940s, is nearly 3,500 feet too short for Growler jet "touch and go" operations, which require 8,800 feet. The runway cannot be extended. For 32 years, the runway has failed to meet Navy runway safety standards.<sup>8</sup> Thus, the Navy is putting its own pilots in danger by asking them to train on an inadequate runway. •Our pilots should have the best possible training, and the Navy should provide a training site that provides realistic carrier landing and takeoff conditions in a way that does not needlessly endanger pilots or civilians. •A single Growler costs \$85-100 million. These very expensive weapons, paid for by taxpayers, should be deployed in an area equipped to handle their needs. At present, the runway cannot do that.</p> <p>Stand down. Utilize simulators. Fly planes in un-populated areas. Recognize the inner-connection of life. Strive for peace and quiet.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kristi O'Donnell</p>	
Oen-1	<p>There is no proof that the training flights cause any harm to anything or anyone.</p> <p>Keep training and flying! We appreciate the Navy and all you do to keep us safe.</p> <p>THANK YOU!!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>
Oetker-1	<p>Protect the animals!!!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
O'hara A-1	<p>Our military readiness is important, yes, but this training's negative impacts to our region are too great.</p> <p>I support only the NO ACTION proposal. Keep this training in the current training areas or find a less populated area for these trainings.</p> <p>This plan would allow for up to 16 hours a day, 260 days a year (not including training flights to off coast vessels) of flights in the 80-100 dB range, a range that causes hearing loss at continued exposure, and aggravates health.</p> <p>These ~5,000 yearly flights would be over populated areas including Whidbey Island, Port Townsend, and Sequim, as well as over and impacting protected natural land and marine areas including the Olympic National Park, Hoh Rainforest, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Washington Islands National Refuges.</p> <p>In addition to negatively impacting the quality of life of our residents, and damaging our wild and protected areas, this plan would harm our economy in the form of tourism. Washington State tourism is a \$20B industry, benefiting local businesses, providing jobs, and bringing tax revenue. Much of this tourism involves people visiting the proposed impact area to enjoy peaceful island getaways, fishing, whale watching, or hiking in our national forest. How many will want to spend their holiday (and money) on a getaway that involves 100 dB flights overhead?</p> <p>This proposal involves too much harm to our region at too great a cost, and even if only a year-long test, would cause too much harm to our people, our region, and our economy, the very things our military is supposed to protect.</p> <p>If the current training areas are not sufficient for readiness, then a new plan needs to be developed, that does not impact such a populated and touristed region.</p>	<p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.</p> <p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers.</li> </ol>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.
O'hara L-1	<p>There has been research into the effects of sonar on marine creatures. Here following is some information about this: A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. [ ]</p> <p>"For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival," Calambokidis said. [ ]</p> <p>Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations. [ ]</p> <p>Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times. [ ]</p> <p>Therefore, it is imperative that the Navy should not use or experiment with sonar which could damage the hearing of marine creatures.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ojeda-1	C'est inacceptable, il faut changer les choses !!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Oliveira-1	I'm 100% against navy sound tests underwater that have been proven to be harmful to sea animals putting their survival in risk. The whole world needs to become more empathetic and respectful of the nature we still have or it is getting too late for the safety of the planet.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Olivier-1	Our environment is crashing and all efforts should be put towards sustaining life of all kinds. These sonar military testing projects will devastate the already fragile sea life we have left in our beautiful Pacific Northwest.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The answer to the world crises is peaceful and respectful living, although it is not like our government is acting. We should have projects that sustain beauty and life for at least the next 7 generations.</p> <p>The number of dead gray whales washing ashore the west coast should be signal enough for the serious problems the planet's sea life is experiencing. We don't want these war games-we want peace games!!! Please no more environmental destruction and death.</p>	<p>EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p>
Olsen-1	<p>I've been visiting the Southern Resident orcas for over 20 years. They are incredible creatures. Right now there is so much noise from tankers. Adding sonar is know to cause death, disorientation, and stranding. There has to be a better way to test. Please find another way without damaging these incredible creatures</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Olson A-1	<p>I am 100% in favor of the No Action Alternative</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Olson D-1	<p>To whom it may concern, I am a child of a military family. I appreciate the intended efforts of the US military, to serve and protect. I also believe that any actions, like sonar testing which is acknowledged for debilitating our marine life, needs to stop. Our marine waters and marine life are just as important to protect as people. We are slowly impacting our ecosystem and it is slowly crippling everyone. Unfortunately, it tends takes loud cries</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	and devastation for awareness and correction. Please refrain from further testing. Thank you and with appreciation.	populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Oltman-1	<p>I want the U.S. Government to protect it's citizens.</p> <p>With the introduction of the EA18 war jets in 2016, life changed here on the Quimper Peninsula.</p> <p>Forty years I have lived here. 16 miles from NAS Ault Field, 10 miles from OLF.</p> <p>Witnessing daily this thoughtless deliberate disregard for my community, the Navy clearly does not seem to be interested in protecting it's own soil, seas, skies, and the air we breathe. We the people are the collateral damage. The Navy refuses to measure what is intolerable and real from the war jets. I invite you to spend a day here, early morning until late evening, five days a week, and experience the true destruction being caused.</p> <p>Invitation open. Please call as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Oltman-2	<p>MR. RICK OLTMAN: Well, where I live in Port Townsend is 10.6 miles as the crow flies from OLF, that's outlying field and (inaudible) -- it's the outlying field where they fly. And I think it's about 16 and a half miles from Abbott Field (sic), and I can hear the jets take off from my house at OLF, and do their flight pattern crystal clear over ten miles away from my house as the crow flies.</p> <p>And I can hear that -- for example, last night up until 10:00 o'clock last night. There's been times when it's been 2:00 in the morning. And then the rest of the day, depending on what's going on between Monday and Friday, I can hear jets take off from Abbott Field towards Discovery Bay, Protection Island area, and they can be either over the top of my house, which is easy to see a jet of course, or they can be 6, 7 miles away in the (inaudible) sea and I can hear them crystal clear because I'm a quarter mile back from the waterfront. And I'm listening to this every single day when they're flying, so I don't miss a jet unfortunately.</p> <p>Um, what else, that's mostly what I want to say. It's actually -- it's totally driving me mad. And it isn't just myself, I have hundreds of neighbors along this perimeter with this noise echoing, and all this started occurring in 2016 I think, when that first jet appeared in our neighborhood.</p> <p>I've lived there since 1979, and this was never part of my life until 2016 when they started changing all the Prowler to the Growler. And so it's like what in the heck is this thing that is just destroying the peace and quiet of one of the most amazing places on Earth. And now we're living with this</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>thing that's flying over our head, probably burning 1300 gallons of fuel on average. And I think they're probably burning anywhere between a million and two million gallons a week of fuel, that would be Island Navy Airbase (sic), and all that stuff is ending up in my community.</p> <p>So, of course I'm not very happy with this because it's -- psychologically it's driving me mad. And I'm going to do everything I can to try to resist this and try to protect my community from this expansion that's occurring. That's -- I really don't know what else to say right at the moment. So, I don't have -- you can stop right there. It's just really sad what's going on here because we're seeing this huge expansion and what I see now is these jets destroying -- we are the collateral damage, our communities.</p>	
Oneill-1	<p>Please cancel the sonar tests scheduled. There must be a better way to conduct these tests that won't do damage to the innocent sea life. They will do irreparable damage to many mammals and other sea life. This test will leave the sea life exposed to it helpless and they will die a slow painful death. PLEASE DO NOT DO IT! Please reconsider.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ong-1	<p>I am 100% against sonar testing. Please spare a thought for the marine animals! Our future generation does not want to live in a world where we only see whales, dolphins, seals,etc washed ashore on beaches.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Onstott-1	<p>To the United States Navy...a group of good people. You have an obligation to help keep our part of the world safe, that includes the marine and land animals as they are part of us. Our lives depend on the ocean as much as we do bees. These tests are very harmful for any marine life but mostly to our Southern Resident Killer Whales. With the large amounts of deaths amongst MF cetaceans as the sperm whale, many of these sperm whales are ending up on the PNW coast. These tests are sure to pump those numbers up. Your report is very clear that these test noises effect MF</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>cetaceans and with the national knowledge that our SRKW are starving, it is questionable how these tests are having so much debate. A new calf has been born, one that most likely any marine life lover would want to thrive and live a happy full life. Even with all the love and support Orcas have within their family bonds, any defects this baby has is felt through the whole family. If these tests impair its hearing, it will lack the tools it needs to help the family survive. If the eyes have been damaged, that is more work for the struggling elders. They are still foraging for food that is rare to find, any possible injuries to a new calf could have many effects and downfalls for the whole family. There are 2 orcas that have peanut head...even one day more without adequate food will be devastating and may be hard to bounce back from. The SRKW have no leniency on their lives, they need to hear the little food they have everyday. Please think of the long term effects as well as the short term effects these tests offer. SeaWorld killed half this family, their legacy is crap. Our Navy does not symbolize death and destruction from what I understand, but if these tests kill just one SRKW that will be your legacy. If these tests injure or impair any of the orca, the lasting effects will be immeasurable.</p>	<p>Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Opsata-1	<p>Please stop sonar testing. It is hurting and killing marine mammals, causing hearing loss, and hemorrhaging and blood in their inner ears and around their brains. This is not just an assault on animals but to also to the people. In an attempt to protect the people you are hurting the very land we aim to protect.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Orcutt-1	<p>I would like the NW Training and Testing Supplemental EIS Statement to address the substantial effect of the increased noise pollution from increased training over the Olympic Peninsula, Olympic Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas. These areas are renowned for their quiet and pristine environment. This noise pollution will affect all manner of marine mammals which are now theoretically protected by the Marine Sanctuary. The EIS needs to evaluate and mitigate the effects of this added noise. Please review the EIS to address these concerns.</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to aircraft noise over the Olympic Peninsula and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary can be found in Chapter 3 and Appendix J of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Orlando-1	<p>Please cease and desist. The scheduled training exercises to be held on June 12, of this year, will negively effect the existing orca population, in the north west. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Orr-1	Stop the destruction of our environment with more, louder military jets over national parks and National Reserve lands. All animals and humans are bearing the brunt for the military to save some fuel rather than training in a more desolate area. No more jets. The Navy is not working fairly with local citizens or environmental groups to not raise the number of flights by 400%. Why oh why do they have to plot courses over these national treasures? Why move all the the F18 Growlers to one location in the US where these critical tactical resources are most vulnerable?	The Navy is not proposing to increase Growler flight activity by 400 percent. The decision about where to base EA-18G aircraft goes beyond the scope of this project.
Osburn-1	I attended the meeting at the Red Lion, Arcata, CA on 2 May 2019. I came away very disappointed by the format of small stations in a very noisy room. I found it very hard to hear questions asked by others and the answers given. The separate stations made it difficult to understand how one connected to the other. I believe a presentation given by several different people in different areas of expertise and question periods after each speaker would be more cohesive.	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Osenbach-1	I oppose the expansion of growler flight testing at Whidbey Island NAS. I also oppose any increase in anti-submarine warfare testing and surface ship sonar testing. Proceeding with any of these actions goes directly against advise from legal, environmental, and former military advisers.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Many parts of the beautiful Pacific Northwest are protected in order to provide safe habitat to endangered or protected species unique to our area, such as the Southern Resident You are an important part of our community and it is extremely important that you take that seriously. Please consider doing further environmental impact studies, or heading the advise already provided. Thank you.	minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Ossipova-1	I am AGAINST sonar testing!!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Oswald-1	This testing will harm orcas who depend on and are very sensitive to sound waves	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ottenbacher-1	please dont allow underwater sonar testing, it has been proven to harm underwater marine animals in the Ocean. Please do not do this, we already have enough threats to our marine life with pollution, plastic, predators, and inhumane people like Taiji, Japan who hunt, slaughter and terrorize	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	dolphins and whales. Please our dolphin/whale population is counting on us to protect them	EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Otter-1	Please save the whales and dolphins.. if you continue it will effect them in a horrible way.. like diseases, stranding, desorientated, not finding food, lack of communication with each other.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Overton-1	Underwater sonar testing should not be used due to the hearing loss and damage it causes to marine mammals. How CRUEL and INHUMANE. Shame on you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Overy-1	<p>I'm a 100% disabled veteran and while I understand the navy needs to train and test they dont need to do it where it will harm orcas, whales, and other ocean life.</p> <p>Please move this testing. Please do not use your sonar equipment that harms whales and ocean life. Research and court rulings have been clear about the harm that testing and instruments like these do to ocean life.</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the ships and aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Owen C-1	Please disarm. Please respect native rights and requests. Let's set an example and help the world to cool.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Owen M-1	Please consider our wildlife They are being destroyed	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Owyang-1	Please do not allow the navy to do sonar testing. It is harmful to marine mammals. The southern resident orcas are already endangered and sonar testing will further risk their livelihood. Thank you. Sheryl	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Oxley-1	Just leave them to be wild, free and happy, to live the life they deserve	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Oyler-1	I am asking for NO Navy sonar testing in the Salish Seas as it can damage the hearing of the critically endangered southern resident orcas. Please do not conduct the testing in those oceans. Thank you	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ozkan-1	i dont agree	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
<b>P</b>		
Pace-1	As someone who lives in the Puget Sound Region and cares deeply about marine health, I cannot support sonar testing in our waters. This is a grave endangerment to already endangered marine mammal species and could cause ecological crisis. Please conduct experiments elsewhere in dead zones, or the great lakes (where there are no species that would be endangered by these tests) Thank you	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the ships and aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Pacifico-1	Many scientific researches appoint to the fact that submarine explosions have a very negative impact on cetaceans and marine life in general. These explosions disrupt their orientation system, making them loose family and	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	territory. Marine creatures are already suffering from a wide variety of threats caused by humans, do we really need to also go throwing bombs on their habitat? We are all seeing the poor animals stranded by the thousands on beaches all over the planet... Please be responsible and do what's right for our Earth and its incomparable nature. Thanks and regards.	Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pacioretty-1	I am 100% opposed to the use of sonar and and testing as is being used and proposed by US Navy and other affiliates. It has been proven to be harmful to marine life, which many species populations are already and great risk.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Page-1	Stop sonar testing, it's dumb	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pagnoni-1	Stop sonar testing	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Pain-1	Hello I wish to register my objection to disturbance of marine life from underwater sonar testing. This is a cruel interference into their natural world which severely impacts their behaviours and ability to survive. They need protection to merely survive.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Paladino-1	In the 2019, when the information runs at the Internet speed and it's broadly available to ANYONE, is utterly unacceptable that tests and activities clearly lethal to our planet are yet allowed... don't let the power of money lead your sensibility. Fight against this filthy mechanism! React!	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Pan-1	I'm a seasonal employee at Kalaloch Lodge, having worked here last summer and returning this year. I'm living on-property with my partner. We are hearing jet fighters daily! The military is transforming what's known as the quietest place in America to a grotesque, discomfoting experience. Today, the jet fighters were so close to the ground that objects in our home started rattling. We went outside to see a neighbor also went outside to check on the noise. Looking up, we saw three (3) jet fighters in the sky! It was and continues to be nerve-racking to not know why this is happening. Are there war games taking place? Are we in imminent danger? We have unresolved questions while the noise is impacting our daily lives.	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.  Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.  While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.  When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context: 1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude. 2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>averaged over a 365-day year).</p> <p>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</p> <p>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</p>
Pang-1	Please do not further underwater sonic testing!! These sounds harm our marine ecosystem, damaging the sensitive hearing systems especially of echolocating animals and often lead to their demise. What you are doing is as much a violence as directly attacking these animals with guns & knives. We've already fished out oceans to the brink, it is absolutely unacceptable to continue the assault as though nothing were happening.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pansini-1	The Orcas have a hard enough time finding food in the PNW. The last thing they need is more unnecessary disruption from humans. There is an entire Ocean available to the Navy - pick another spot and give the Orcas some space! I am 100% against your underwater sonar testing! Go elsewhere!	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Parden-1	Please do not do the sonar testing - it's is harmful to the dolphins and whales and causes them harm.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Park G-1	I would hope that the US stays true to its status as an upholder of ethics for all animals of the globe, of which we are one	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Park H-1	Dumping toxic waste to the waters of piglet sound is unacceptable.	The Navy's proposed activities do not include dumping of any materials. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Park J-1	There is NO military testing that is more important than the impact on the biology and the environment, especially when it is avoidable. The critically endangered Southern Resident Orcas and all the Salish Sea Marine inhabitants are in harms way from your practices. It has already been proved that underwater sonar testing causes harm to marine animals, and yet you continue. A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated 11,233 harbor porpoises live in these water along with 76 Southern Resident Orcas. These animals use sound extensively, and you are limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies. You are causing temporary and permanent hearing loss to thousands of animals, on top of potential impacts we are not even aware of. Not only is this cruel and unnecessary, it's will further throw off the ecological balance.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Parks J-1	I'm 100% against underwater sonar practicing in the Salish Sea and it needs to stop. The Navy has openly admitted such practices causes hearing loss for all marine mammals. The critically endangered orcas of the southern resident pods are struggling to survive and thrive, sonar prevents them to hunt and eat which they spend 96% of their day doing. They are starving and the navy is part of the problem. Sonar also causes them to be in distress and in pain, the Navy needs to stop with the sonar especially since we've just confirmed a new baby from the J-Pod and this baby really needs	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	to get to adulthood. No more underwater sonar practicing, I can't stand the sound and know it is 100 times worse for marine life.	Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Parks N-1	<p>I vehemently oppose the Navy's plan for weapons testing and training, proposed to begin in 2020 in Puget Sound, along with coastal waters from northern California through Washington state, and Alaska. The scale of proposed air combat maneuvers, submarine tracking and detection exercises, electronic warfare practice, mine training, torpedo testing and extensive use of sonar would inevitably have enormous and unacceptable impacts--observed or not--on marine mammals, other sealife, and the ocean itself.</p> <p>It seems ludicrous to believe that computer modelling of the responses of marine mammals--living beings constantly on the move in highly variable waters subject to endlessly changing conditions--could reasonably be expected to achieve credible results. Did the Navy employ super-computers and a slew of experts and expend millions of taxpayer dollars to do this? I would think not, yet the public and NMFS is meant to be seriously persuaded by the numbers.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the Navy's data compiled for its application to the National Marine Fisheries Service for permits to "do incidental harm to marine mammals" hint at the shocking impacts from the proposed sonar testing: more than 750,000 "Behavioral responses," some 522,000 incidents of "temporary hearing loss," and about 1,400 occurrences of "permanent hearing loss".</p> <p>The Navy and the NMFS, with their combined centuries of research on marine mammals hardly need reminding of the absolutely essential role sound plays in the survival of marine mammals. Permanent hearing loss is a death sentence for marine mammals, and "temporary" (how long is that??) loss can likewise be lethal. The euphemism "accidental takings" cannot disguise the virtual certainty that tens, even hundreds of thousands of animals will die gruesomely from Navy personnel practicing their weapons on our marine life. IF ANOTHER NATION'S FORCES ARRIVED IN U.S. AIR SPACE AND NATIONAL WATERS AND PERPETRATED SUCH ASSAULTS, IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF WAR!</p> <p>Like other citizens, I am grateful for military protection of our country and I understand that requires a certain level of "readiness". My father is a decorated WW2 Navy veteran, and my husband an Air Force Vet. But we</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/">www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	are not in a physical state of war, and yet the majority of U.S. Pacific waters are virtually under siege by Growler jets and Navy ships! The Navy has received hundreds of thousands of comments and messages from the public, protesting the scale and intensity of Navy war weapons testing, yet every EIS and permit application pertinent to Pacific expansion has passed review, with no compromises, no scaling back, no acknowledgement of the burdens endured by humans, wildlife, and other helpless entities. And what about you, Navy employee reading this comment (assuming someone IS reading and tabulating this)?? How does it feel to work for a public agency that makes a mockery of Americans' right to public review and appeal of policies? Do you want your children and grandchildren to be able to experience the presence, grandeur, and mystery of marine mammals and a healthy ocean? If the Navy continues the intensity and scope of its death tactics in our oceans and seas, in the face of so many other threats to ocean life, that possibility may dwindle into dust.	
Parks S-1	It is vital that the multiple environmental concerns for both human being and the wider landscape be taken into account in the decisions being made about flight training in the Whidbey and Northwest Region. The present plan degrades the primary features that make this region a part of a great America. It is unlikely that if the consequences of the current plans had been evaluated in relationship to alternative sites that the decisions would have proceeded in the ways that they have. All who hold responsibility for the governance and safety of our region and nation must take responsibility and exercise the leadership and courage to make better, more strategic, and wiser choices.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Paropkari-1	A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. □ “For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival,” Calambokidis said. □ Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy’s calculations. □ Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a “behavioral reaction” (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Parr-1	Sonar testing leads to the death of whales and marine life and therefore I am opposed to sonar testing by the US Navy in the Salish Sea. Please stop it.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Parr-2	Navy sonar is having a devastating effect on whales and all marine life which is unacceptable. Please change your practices.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Paskewitz-1	I vote no on sonar testing as it will effect the whales in our community	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Paterek-1	Happy Climate Change Happy Global Warming Your grandchildren will have grandchildren	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Patino-1	Sonar testing is destroying marine life. Those tests need to stop all together. For good.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Patrick-1	It's so sad to see thousands of these beautiful creatures being killed in the oceans Ingrid Alpha Just let them know how sad it is to see thousands of these beautiful creatures being killed in the oceans around the world because of sonar testing. It's their home the sea not ours to destroy! the world because of sonar testing. It's their home the sea not ours to destroy!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Patterson B-1	Please do not partake in any sonar or other tests that can/would interfere with the development and livelihood of our Southern Resident Orcas. Their wellbeing is being compromised by anything that interferes with their sonar and abilities to find chinook salmon. I understand the importance of testing but am hopeful there can be a compromise and other locations in which to continue with Naval operations. We are in a tenuous situation and we must provide an optimum environment in which our orcas need to survive.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Patterson Sa-1	I am against this further project proposed by the navy. Although I was unable to attend the presentation on fri may 3rd, I heard how badly it was organized in that it was very disjointed.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Patterson Su-1	Please put a stop to underwater sonar testing in the Salish Sea and surrounding areas. This area is home to at least 11,233 harbor porpoises	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	and 76 ENDANGERED Southern Resident Orcas. These beautiful animals use their sense of hearing to not only feed themselves but also for sense of direction which affects their breeding habits and ability to survive. These animals are prone to suffer total hearing loss which would leave them disoriented and in harms way. Who are we to sacrifice their lives for the possibility of protecting ours.	and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Patti-1	I am writing this to voice my choice to protect the Wales from the harm the navy will cause if this exercise is done. I see no benefit and only Harm if the Navy is to proceed.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Patton-1	I believe sonar testing is harmful for environment. It affects marine life whales & dolphins, confuses them, causes strandings, and death. This is a senseless, harmful use of the tax payers dollars. The grey whale migration has been impacted and will see more impact if the Navy continues this. Upsetting the balance of marine life will impact human life. Also sonar emits 235-decibel pressure waves of unbearable metallic sounds. The vibrations can rupture lungs and cause brain hemorrhage.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Patwell-1	We have enough weapons to kill everyone many times over, but our wildlife is endangered. Stop killing our wildlife!!!	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Paul-1	<p>Using studies conducted as far back as 1984 as source material for your EIS/OEIS draft is wholly unacceptable. So far this year, 70 gray whales washed ashore on the west coast, five times the average rate. NOAA has declared a wildlife emergency. The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that "military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor". At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that "for the most part," this material will be ingested by bottom feeders, Gray whales are bottom feeders. The SEIS needs to take into account the already stressed gray whale population. Scientific studies have shown that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, listening is the way they see and communicate and is integral to their survival. Under these circumstances, will the Navy provide updated studies in the OEIS reflecting the current crisis? Until NOAA's study on the die-off on the Gray Whales is complete shouldn't any disruption of the ocean by sonar and explosive activity be halted?</p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gray-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gray-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a></p> <p><a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a></p> <p>The economic considerations are well-stated in the letter of opposition to sonar testing off the coast of Mendocino County by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in their letter to you dated April 21, 2019. To paraphrase: sonar and explosive testing off the Mendocino coast is detrimental to the fragile oceanic ecosystem on which we rely. The wide variety of sea life is a key economic source for our county and must not be damaged in any way.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy uses the most current marine mammal population data available from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The 2008 and 2010 references cited in the comment were not used by the Navy to determine current populations.</p> <p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Will you please slow down this process to allow enough time for current scientific data to be added to your SEIS?	
Paulsen-1	Navy needs to be a better neighbor. Not good fit in this pristine part of America with their noise, pollution, lowering quality of life for both people and especially whales in the surrounding sea.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Paulson-1	<p>I have attended several of your public meetings and have always come away dispirited and unconvinced that the Navy can, in any substantive way, mitigate the damage and carnage to marine species caused by sonar testing. Its interference with mating (and other) calls, disruption at foraging sites, disorientation and the potential for panic-induced decompression sickness/death in some species are just a few of the critical problems associated with these types of testing.</p> <p>Other marine biologists not associated with the Navy have said the reduction in reproductive rates caused by such activity is an invisible reality as it leaves no bodies behind. And that current estimates of whale populations are +/- 50%; that's how little is actually known of their true numbers.</p> <p>Your mitigations are inadequate. Lookouts would be a laughable solution if it weren't actually tragic, when, perforce, so much of their lives and activities are outside of, and below our view. As for acoustic tracking, your own literature acknowledges they must be vocalizing for it to be effective.</p> <p>All of these invasions, physical and acoustic, are wrought on species who have no choice or agency in the matter - they cannot read our maps or minds - our "safe" zones are not necessarily theirs.</p> <p>In a world now set firmly on a path to soon lose 1 million species of plants</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	and animals due to our idiocy regarding fossil fuel consumption and willful ignorance of the magnitude of the climate alteration about to break on us, it seems incredibly shortsighted, inhumane and indeed, evil.to deliberately undertake actions that will so negatively impact and hasten the demise of so many other orders of being. They have much to teach us - too bad we're so bent on playing with our toys, defending against exactly whom? and strewing agony, displacement and death in our wake. Soon we'll see whales only in marine parks, sea turtles on souvenir coffee cups, penguins in cartoons and on kids' pajamas. For what? "Safety" in a world that destroys itself is not safety at all. We are dismantling creation and the Navy is a chief participant.	
Pavesi-1	Please end the sonar testing and training activities. It is extraordinarily painful for our co-earthlings. #DoNoHarm	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Payne-1	The Navys' idea That they can bomb and practice with torpedoes, and use sonar underwater like it doesn't matter MUST END NOW!!! Bombing our only planet near earthquake fault lines can only be seen as psychopathic! Hurting the animals created to be here alongside us in any way is an absolute atrocity. Wake up you who think you do what you do to protect when you are the destroyers. You need to protect the earth and it's animals not the war loving fear mongering politicians you have believed. Wake up wake up wtf UP!!!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pedigo-1	Our governor is going to run for president under a platform of reducing climate change and protecting the Orca whales. I have written him asking how can he deal with climate change when one of the largest producers of greenhouse gas is practicing at the NW corner of his state. I also question the veracity of protecting the Orca's and many other species, endangered or not, when, again, the same perpetrator above, of so much environmental destruction is allowed to operate unimpeded? The present excuse of the military to operate as it has is it is protecting us	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	(which is a lie as it has simply painted a big bulls eye on our area). My question how valuable is that 'protection' when it undermines the natural environment that is the force of all life on this planet? My late partner asked her 2nd graders a question; which is more important people or dirt? We need to get our priorities straight and put the natural environment (dirt) at the top of the list. Military activities should, at best, come second.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Pellizzari-1	END SONAR TESTING .....NOW	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Penley-1	Underwater sonar testing has been proven to cause harm to marine animals yet you continue to do it! Our marine life has enough to contend with (plastic, ocean warming, busy shipping lines etc.) without being deafened and disoriented by your sonar testing ending all to often in their death. Please stop all your testing and give whales, dolphins and all other marine life a chance to survive!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pennington-1	Everyone knows how sonar is important to navy, BUT the living beings in the ocean can't protect themselves from human disrespect. Please please find another way another area of vast ocean to do your work. Leave the whales and others alone to live as God Almighty intended or you will find yourself answering to Him. Guaranteed!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Penty-1	I am a canadian citizen living in Victoria on canadian soil. I can feel the sound of the growler jets in my chest while sitting inside my home. I know whitby island is close to Vancouver island, but I'm not sure how you're allowed to pollute canadian airspace and soil with that much noise. Its reasonable to hear jet sounds if you're on island beach across the water from the base, but the noise and vibration of the jets are invading people's homes.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Percival-1	PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY THE HABITAT FOR MANY MARINE ANIMALS WITH EXTENSIVE SONAR TESTING! As reported in the Seattle Times: "Many marine animals rely on sound to communicate, locate food, avoid predators and navigate. Exposure to sound could change their behavior, said John Calambokidis, a research biologist and founder of Cascadia Research Collective. Intense or repeated exposure to certain frequencies of sonar could also affect animals' ability to hear sounds in those ranges, he said. THOSE HIGH FREQUENCIES SOUNDS ARE ENOUGH TO DRIVE ANY BEING INSANE!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Perea-1	Knowing how sonar impacts ocean life and continueing to use it is wreckless and careless. We must coexist with all creatures in the chain of life. A broken chain is a weak chain that will impact humans in detrimental ways. Wise up and stop using sonar!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Peregrine-1	I'm sorry, but no matter how much you sugar-coat your new war-games off my coast here in N. Mendocino County, I oppose them...I have been a whale watcher here for over 50 years. We cannot assume that these mammals are lesser than humans. They have extraordinary senses, and damaging them is not acceptable. I'm sure you know that 9 whales have been found dead in the Bay Area recently. The ocean is a unique habitat for thousands of creatures, many of which are already stressed to the point of diminishing populations. We need to be working on restoration, not further damage. May you put your unlimited funds & people-power into preservation of habitats & species, not contribute further to the decimation. You can & could do this - we need to shift our priorities at this time!	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li><li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li></ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Person-1	Please don't destroy our marine life with your sonar and weapons testing. Just no. You know it's wrong. You know animals will be killed for no good reason besides somebody making money. Just don't.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Persson-1	☹️☹️☹️☹️☹️	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Peters-1	<p>The proposed training area has, as of April 15, 2019, been closed to commercial dungeness crab fishing to prevent entanglements with marine mammals. This is causing great economic hardship to local fishermen. High intensity Navy sonar has been proven to cause serious harm to the same marine mammals that are being protected by the crab fishing closure. It makes no sense to close the fishery to protect the whales only to have Navy sonar continue to do damage to the whales. I am not protesting the fishery closure but I am protesting the Navy's use of the same area causing counterproductive results.</p> <p>Hopefully, with the whole Pacific Ocean to work with, the Navy could find a less disruptive area to do its training.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTEIS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1 - Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the ships and aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Petersky-1	<p>With our oceans already under degradation due to global climate chaos, the Navy's plan to release 20,000 tons of environmental pollutants, including heavy metals and depleted uranium, into the coastal waters of the U.S. Pacific Northwest is irresponsible.</p> <p>I am concerned that the mid-range sonar frequency that is most often used in testing will be harmful to marine mammals. We are already putting our local whale and orca populations under high stress.</p> <p>Further, I am requesting the U.S. Navy use its considerable resources to avoid flying over the Olympic National park, and instead train in other designated military areas. The unique qualities of Olympic have been recognized as a national park, wilderness area, International Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site. Warplanes do not belong above one of the most quiet, wild and protected areas in the country. Please use a training alternative that would avoid noise over and around the Olympic Peninsula.</p> <p>Thank you for recognizing my concerns.</p>	<p>The Navy does not propose the use of ordnance containing depleted uranium. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft and ships are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Petersmark-1	<p>My favorite moments are out in nature.</p> <p>My finances depend on our natural spaces and National Parks.</p> <p>My health depends on cascadia and the salish sea.</p> <p>I am a hiking guide who has the privilege of accompany people, some for the first time in their lives, to our National Parks. Every trip we take a moment to appreciate the beauty and silence that we can only found out in nature. And then that moment, every time, is interrupted by an airplane overhead.</p> <p>Sound and light pollution are just as volatile as litter to our natural</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	ecosystems. I see firsthand the impact we are having on those ecosystems as we infiltrate them with our pollution more and more. Please consider the impact that will be made on our LIFE sustaining ecosystems for the sake of military training. As a proud citizen of this country, I cannot standby as we cripple the health of our future for short term gains.	
Peterson-1	The U. S. Navy has made our house in Coupeville virtually uninhabitable. Now the Navy intends to bring this excruciating mind-numbing noise to the quietest place on earth, our beautiful Olympic National Park. There are other training options that do not involve turning our peaceful park into a war zone. If the reader of this comment does not think this is a "substantive comment," then that reader is clearly neither a hiker nor a person who appreciates the intrinsic value of beauty in the natural world. The Navy is currently being sued for scraping tons of paint off an aircraft carrier and dumping it into Puget Sound. Come on, Navy! Be a patriot! Show that you give a care for the citizens you are supposed to be protecting. My father was an Army pilot. He's buried in the Willamette National Cemetery. He loved the Pacific Northwest and would be appalled at what the Navy is doing to the environment of Washington State.	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Pether-1	The marine life that live in this area would suffer greatly. Particularly the Southern Resident Orcas who are already under siege from lack of food, pollution such as oil, etc and noise pollution and then all the people wanting to go sight seeing to see orcas. To put these animals under further stress with this assault on their senses would be detrimental to their health and survival. An orca calf was born recently. These calves haven't survived lately due to all the things mentioned about. Please don't let this be the SR orcas' swan song. Thank you.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pether-2	The Southern Resident Orcas are already under threat from lack of food, pollution and noise. The sonar noise from the navy is significantly increasing their likelihood of long term survival. Orcas need their hearing to survive. The Navy knows sonar damages the hearing if the orcas so why use it? These SR orcas need protection, not more assault! The science is there -	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	sonar damages the orcas hearing. The Navy should stop using sonar now. It doesn't make sense!!! The Navy is polluting the orcas home with sonar that's deafening. This must stop now. Thanks	3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Petti-1	This public comment is being submitted in regards to the US Navy's Northwest Training and Testing plans. The environmental impact report for this notes the use of live ammunition and sonar bursts. Sonar and live ammunition technology is incredibly detrimental to marine life. The coastline is immensely important for an array of reasons, not only limited to marine life. Multiple governmentally recognized indigenous Tribes have deep spiritual and cultural connections to this region. There is no actual need for this training and testing to happen on the coast, or specifically in that area. Carrying out these actions would result in devastation to a very delicate ecosystem that serves as a hub for a unique diversity of life, as well as harm the culture and spirituality of the surrounding communities. I remain opposed to the Navy's training and testing activities. The Navy's future activists must be carried out in a more considerate and protective way towards environmental, cultural, and spiritual aspects of the area that is being effected.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Philbin-1	The Southern Resident Killer Whales are a critically endangered population of an icon symbol of the Pacific Northwest. They currently face threats from toxins, vessel noise and lack of prey availability. We don't need to introduce more stress on this critically endangered population. Give them the space and peace they deserve. I am against US Navy sonic testing in the Salish Sea. This is an unacceptable and harmful practice that endangers all marine life. I don't not support the US Navy's plan to conduct sonic testing in the Salish Sea. Listen to the people of the Pacific Northwest, this is our home, the whales are our people.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Phillips Dan-1	I am absolutely against the Navy doing sonar testing in the Salish Sea!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Phillips Dar-1	If the oceans die, we die.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Phipps-1	I am totally against sonar testing.It is harmful to sea mammals and must stop! NO TO SONAR TESTING.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pine-1	<p>I have lived in Port Townsend Wa. for 28 years and the noise from the Growler aircraft is much louder than previous aircraft. The pollution in the form of hydrocarbon emissions is intolerable and also disregarded by the Navy.</p> <p>The number of growlers and associated aircraft which make up an expeditionary force puts our communities at risk for a first strike nuclear war. That is not acceptable !</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The marine life that is being damaged by sonar, bombs, electronic warfare weapons and naval activity is not fully realized by the navy. That is also not acceptable.</p> <p>The Navy's noise studies are a farce and they know it ! You say we need to make substantive comments? When you make up your own studies and lie to the people who pay your salaries why should we be required to play by your rules?</p> <p>You are destroying the drinking water on Whidbey Island and your only recourse is to provide bottled water to the people living there!</p> <p>When you are done playing war games here ( I pray for that day) and walk away leaving us to clean up your toxic mess then we will become another blip on your radar screen as you look for another host to latch onto and infect.</p> <p>Your attempt to green wash your misdeeds and present yourself as a good neighbor are laughable!</p> <p>Finally I would like to say that some day you will receive the same treatment that you are inflicting on the world and when that happens you will know what karma is. Your ability to lie and deceive the public is astounding and unfortunately very successful.</p> <p>As I lay awake at night and listen to the horrific noise your planes create,EVERY NIGHT, I think back to pre growler times and am truly thankful that I got to live here then and witnessed a time of relative quiet! Here's hoping for a Naval free future for us all.</p> <p>Jay Pine</p>	<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Pinette-1	<p>I'm 100% Against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. ☐</p> <p>A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. ☐</p> <p>"For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival," Calambokidis said.☐</p> <p>Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations.☐</p> <p>Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times. ☐</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Pinneo-1	<p>Alternative 1 seems the best one, but only with significant new restrictions (not present in the draft EIS) to protect whales.</p> <p>The US Navy should voluntarily limit all active sonar and explosive training and testing within Puget Sound and other enclosed waters (eg Straits of Juan de Fuca) to the minimum duration and intensity necessary to achieve training / testing. Active sonar &amp; explosions should also be deconflicted to locations and periods of minimum marine mammal activity / residency, to avoid disrupting, injuring, or killing marine mammals - specifically whales and dolphins. This minimization should also apply to known migration / resident routes offshore, during the periods of known migration. Species of special concern (resident orca, beaked whales, right whales, and blue whales) should receive preferential deconfliction.</p> <p>The EIS should include all known migration / residency periods of those marine mammals, as the general statements made in the draft do not provide sufficient data to assess if the Navy has provided maximum deconfliction in Alternatives 1 or 2.</p> <p>The Navy has not acknowledged that active sonar not only disrupts but also kills whales, per the draft EIS page 3.4-85: " These effects could hypothetically extend from physical injury or trauma to a behavioral or stress response that may or may not be detectable. Injury (physical trauma) can occur to organs or tissues of an animal (Section 3.4.2.1.1.1, Injury)... " The words "could hypothetically" should be removed.</p> <p>And the Navy has not fully mitigated this existential threat to whales even after judicial restrictions were enforced in some locations (2016, Channel Islands, 2nd source below).</p> <p>There a growing body of evidence linking mass whale deaths to naval active sonar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/04/060428094046.htm">https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/04/060428094046.htm</a>;</li> <li>- <a href="https://ceobs.org/the-other-war-against-whales/">https://ceobs.org/the-other-war-against-whales/</a>: "In 2016, the Ninth Circuit court ruled in favour of the NRDC and the other challengers. In its decision, the three-judge panel found that the lead government agency had unlawfully ignored reasonable safeguards recommended by the government's own scientists to reduce or prevent harm from the sonar system, resulting in a 'systematic under-protection of marine mammals' throughout 'most of the oceans of the world'. It found, among other things, that protecting marine mammal habitat from Navy sonar is 'of paramount importance' under the law."</li> <li>- <a href="https://www.nrdc.org/experts/michael-jasny/us-navy-implicated-new-mass-stranding-whales">https://www.nrdc.org/experts/michael-jasny/us-navy-implicated-new-mass-stranding-whales</a></li> </ul>	<p>The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.</p> <p>Regarding aircraft mishaps, non-anticipated accidents or emergencies are not included in the NEPA analysis.</p> <p>The details of marine mammal migration/residency periods is found in Section 3.4.1. The Navy considered this information in its analysis of impacts from sonar and explosives.</p> <p>The language in Section 3.4.2.1 quoted in the comment is correct as written. No change is necessary.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Naval commanders considering "national security exceptions" to the planned alternative should publicly identify and justify the threat that requires non-mitigated active sonar or explosive activity. It is not enough that the US Navy maintain defensive and offensive advantage over potential adversaries - they must do so without unnecessarily destroying the life in the oceans they sail.	
Pirani-1	Please do not conduct sonar testing near the hunting waters of the Southern Resident Orca population. These orcas are already in the decline due to lack of food supply, caused by us humans. Conducting these tests will have an awful impact on these whales, especially the two in the pod with rapidly declining health due to starvation. If sonar testing is absolutely necessary, please conduct it elsewhere!	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Pirttilahti-1	<p>Minusta ihmisten tulee kunnioittaa luontoa ja sen eläimiä. Ääni, mikä kuuluu sonarista meressä on kauhea. Kuinka kukaan voi kuvitella, että sellaista ääntä pitää merten eläinten, herkkien delfiinien ja valaiden kuunnella? Minusta armeijan ei tule muutoinkaan testata mitään alueilla, missä on eläimiä tai ihmisiä. Video jonka näin, tekee pahaa itsellenikin, herkkänä ihmisenä. Miettikää, jos itse joutuisitte kuuntelemaan samaa kimakkaa ääntä kodissanne? Lopettakaa, ihmisen ei tarvitse olla osa merta, mutta eläinten pitää. Riittää, että jätteet syydetään mereen, ei enää enempää melusaastetta. Olen myös sitä mieltä, että suuret valas- ja delfiinkuolemat johtuvat pitkälti laivaliikenteestä ja juuri armeijan toimista. Pyydän vielä, lopettakaa, olkaa inhimillisiä. Kirjoitan tämän suomeksi, syystä, että olen suomalainen ja yhtä huolissani kaikista maailman meristä kuin Suomea ympäröivistä.</p> <p>Video link:  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PNWProtectors/videos/vb.137665943575419/422289918354459/?type=2&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/PNWProtectors/videos/vb.137665943575419/422289918354459/?type=2&amp;theater</a> </p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Pizza-1	You've got to stop this insanity of the sonar testing going on when they're killing and harming and causing deafness and disorientation and inability to communicate and upset within their entire pods of all mammals, the whales the dolphins the killer whales, everyone!!!! This is insanity and this	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	is upsetting to all of us and this is a crime, this Hass to be stopped -I this is unacceptable! There are other ways to do this that do not harm our marine mammal life! We all care and you need to as well and you need to stop this now !!!!!!!!!	EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Plant-1	The cetaceans in the Salish sea are already suffering enough noise pollution, amongst other threats such as ship strikes, entanglements and malnourishment. Give these animals a break, do not begin sonar testing. Imagine having to deal with that in your world. It's torture.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Plocher-1	No testing should be done that harms sea animals in any way. Testing should be pursued via simulations or bodies of water that do not have sea creatures in them (e.g. Salt Lake). Imagine what impact it would have if a human being were subjected to this kind of testing. Sea animals need to have same rights of humane treatment.	The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4 (Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.
Plott-1	Please stop using sonar. It hurts all kinds of mammals.  Please stop.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Plumley-1	Please stop the sonar testing. It is severely damaging marine life	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Podzalne-1	I'm concerned for the health and safety of marine mammals, whose sensitivity to sonar and other percussive disturbances we know causes permanent damage and even death. Many of these creatures are already suffering serious population declines and face a host of challenges from overfishing and pollution. I realize tests are necessary, but I ask they be kept to a minimum and be performed far away from at risk marine mammals. Thank you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pohl-1	<p>The EIS is failing to take into consideration the total footprint of impact and is only focused on the deployment site. A recent Study by Lauren Kuehne Research Scientist University of Washington measured and tracked noise profiles in the Olympic National Park area just outside the Impact area. a 1200 fold increase from the baseline of noise in the area was recorded as a result of increased air traffic noise. 85 percent of the recorded noise came from military aircraft correlated to the activity from Ault field. The Navy should be required to expand the EIS to include the Olympic National Park as well as the flyways over which they operate, not just their target area. Furthermore the studies show the following for consideration:</p> <p>However, based on reviews of literature it is understood that negative health effects of unwanted noise begin to manifest (typically as annoyance and related stress responses) in humans when levels rise above 40 db(A) (21). Concentration, memory, cognition, and mental health status can be impaired when noise levels reach 40 - 55 db(A) (20–23). Levels above 55 db(A) are associated with serious cardiovascular health effects, including hypertension, stroke, and risk of ischemic heart disease (20, 21). When noise is experienced in wilderness areas, perception and psychological effects of disturbance can be exacerbated based on the expectation of quiet (24, 25), as well as intermittence and lack of predictability of events (26). Vulnerability to detrimental impacts of noise is believed to vary across individuals and groups (e.g., higher impacts on children and elderly), but these relationships are only poorly documented at present (20).</p> <p>A majority of the research related to noise and wildlife has recently been summarized by Shannon et al. 2016, which documents the diverse consequences of noise disturbance from 119 studies on birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians, and invertebrates. These documented</p>	<p>The Navy has expanded the noise analysis to include the transit of aircraft to and from the Olympic MOA.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment.</p> <p>The Navy reviewed Shannon et al. 2015, which documents the effects of noise on wildlife, summarizing numerous articles on varied species. The analysis conducted by the Navy was specific to species, so those specific research articles are referenced in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, not the summary provided by Shannon et al. 2015.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	impacts include: avoidance of noisy areas, changes in behavior, increased physiological stress, reduced reproductive success, declines in abundance and occupancy of sites, and changes in species communities and interactions. Research at community and ecosystem scales has demonstrated that noise disturbance can result in shifts in entire bird communities (11, 12) and even alter and disrupt ecosystem functions (13). Although studies that examine impacts on fitness (vs. behavior) of animal are rarer, at least four studies document reductions in breeding success of birds due to different types of noise disturbance (14–16).	
Pohl-2	An omission in the EIS that has yet to be addressed. This is regarding the details of CO2 Emissions as well as other climate change inducing gases. Studies have shown that the impact of the increased Growler activity will be greater than the Island County and San Juan county (including Washington Ferry Systems) total. Reporting is required by Washington State RCW 70.235.020 and HB 1110 - 2019-20 Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation fuels are not being addressed. See attached for more information.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.  There was no attachment included with this comment.
Pohl-1	Will you please obtain comments from Whidby Island residents and Naval Air station pilots and personnel? I am happy knowing the Olympic Peninsula is protected in the event of a terrorist attack. Maybe these folks who cannot endure Growler noise may want to relocate out of Washington State. I put up with the temporary noise. I watched a fighter bomber jet do a mock sorte' bomb/rocket attack on the Clallam County courthouse watch tower in early 2000 or so. It came screaming close to the tower then headed back to Whidby Island. Thank you for protecting our country.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.
Poirier-1	Please stop practicing your sonar system near any marine life. Specifically, the Orca Whale's ecosystem is so fragile and once it's threatened and gone, lives can never be replaced!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Poole-1	The danger posed to marine life by the proposition of us sonar is ludicrous and unnecessary. Any approval of this would ruin entire ecosystems and quality of life.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pope-1	I hope studies have been done and not just a thoughtless decision to do this. You know the Southern Resident Orcas reside in the Salish Sea and are endangered. How can this be done in an area with an endangered species? Cant a test be done further out to sea? Think this through!!!!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the ships and aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Porter B-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I come from a military family and have supported the Navy since moving here in the late 80's, but no longer...</li> <li>• The Navy is destroying the special nature and environment of Whidbey Island and surrounding communities with their unconstrained, day and night Growler flights. They are systematically and deliberately harming the communities they are supposed to protect. And they don't care enough even to listen to us anymore.</li> <li>• The Growlers and their brain-scrambling, conversation-ruining sound tsunamis are INTOLERABLE. The sound is BRUTAL, relentless and harmful to health, hearing, environment, property values, and to our families.</li> <li>• Example: We cannot have our 1-year-old grandson visit and subject him to sound levels of &gt;110 dB (comparable to a chainsaw with no hearing protection- imagine it or come to hear and experience it for yourself!) You</li> </ul>	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>are welcome to visit us when they fly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My wife is undergoing chemotherapy; rest and sleep are impossible, even with windows closed, when the Navy decides to fly whenever and wherever they want.</li> <li>• We cannot schedule our lives with so little notice; they make abrupt changes to their schedule and we have to just shut up and endure it!</li> <li>• The Navy is clearly trying to deceive the people, congress and themselves by using a deliberately misleading and dishonest computer model, using time-averaged sound values to hide the truth. This would never survive a moment in the scientific literature- the Navy chose to average the much longer times of our quiet community with their excruciatingly intense flights and concluded, there is no problem. Ridiculous. This is a deliberate, self-serving attempt at deception. We need real time area-wide scientifically-sound noise monitoring with violations linked to action to stop this community battering.</li> <li>• Other than leaving, there is no escaping the penetrating auditory trauma. We cannot be in our garden, be outside or enjoy walks without ear plugs and noise cancelling earphones. If caught outside and away from home without them, such as in a kayak, your ears will ring for hours. This means your hearing was damaged.</li> <li>• The planes fly very low and loud over schools, hospitals and towns. They are often only 150 feet above the trees, and right over our homes. And there are multiple eagle nests in the trees that they fly 150 feet above; I have photos of a close encounter with two eagles during a training exercise.</li> <li>• Our property values will drop. They are scaring away tourists! We and others have had vacation rental cancellations for potential visitors- this affects our personal finances as well as the community economy which depends so much on tourism.</li> </ul> <p>The Navy has chosen to disconnect from the community and do what they wish, with no accountability to these communities. They continue to expand the Growlers as they wish. There are alternatives, but they don't want to even discuss them... they don't care...</p>	
Porter L-1	<p>I have only one thing to say ... STOP all sonar and explosives actions !! It has now been proven that this harms and kills our sea creatures ... Our oceans are in crisis, and what you are doing, and have been doing for years is totally unacceptable</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Porter R-1	I strongly disapprove of the Navy proposal to fly 5000 Growler jets over the Olympic National Park and Marine Sanctuary. People do not Come from around the world to visit the Olympics to hear earsplitting noise while enjoying this exceptional marine ecosystem, stunning temperate rainforest and spectacular undeveloped coastline. And I do not approve of "incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine animals." The noise alone would disturb the wildlife of the Olympic Mountains.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Portis-1	This sonar testing can have a significant negative impact on the ability of orca whales and dolphins to recognize communication signals from their own species. This can ultimately result in hearing loss, which will result in long-term negative consequences to their ability to survive and thrive. With so many threats to ocean wildlife, specifically marine mammals, as it is, they need to be protected from further harm.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Posada-1	The already stressed population of orcas and salmon will be harm badly by the dumping of toxic waste.	In the course of the Navy proposed activities (listed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS), some expended materials are left behind in the ocean. The potential impacts of these actions was thoroughly analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Poss-1	As a 19-year-resident of Whidbey Island, I'm asking that the Navy considers moving its Growler operation to the JBLM site where the local population won't be as impacted by the deafening sound of the jets as they are in Coupeville. I live north of Langley and can hear the continual sound of the jets from where I live day and night. Whidbey Island's appeal is its vistas, its	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	serenity and the formerly quiet peace it affords. The same holds true for the Olympic National Forest, the San Juan Islands and the Skagit Valley. Please raise your awareness and consider the long-term benefit of preserving the legacies of remnant prairie, old-growth forests, our marine environment and our sense of community over the short-term gain of flying planes. I drove an elder to the Whidbey General Hospital yesterday. The sound of the planes flying overhead was deafening. I could hear the roar from inside the examining room. The technician said she had trouble hearing the elder's heartbeat through her stethoscope. Please consider that people need quiet beautiful places to recreate and be a good neighbor and move the Growler operation to JBLM. This link to a recent editorial says it perfectly: <a href="https://www.southwhidbeyrecord.com/letters/suggests-jblm-as-site-for-navy-landing-practices/">https://www.southwhidbeyrecord.com/letters/suggests-jblm-as-site-for-navy-landing-practices/</a> Please be as neighborly to us as we are to each other.	<a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Powell B-1	I was unable to attend any of the public meetings. I read carefully the last EIS you published several years ago and was disappointed at the lack of good science and the ignorance and complacency in the report that lead you to assume that 100+ testing maneuvers would have a negligible impact on the health of the oceans, and bays and of the mammals and other life – vegetable and animal – that live there. I have not read the most recent EIS because I believe it would waste my time—unless you have suspended all sonar weapons testing, disruptive maneuvers & war games and all other polluting activities you're engaged in. I'm adamantly opposed to your plan. The oceans are at a critical turning point—the overfishing—pollution and shipping are going to kill a vital resource. People will die and if you are practicing peace through preparedness – you are mistaken. Stop now – turn your efforts to study and repair of the oceans – before we don't even know what we've destroyed. P.S. If that is the conclusion of the latest EIS – good for you – but I'm doubting it is.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record. The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li><li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li><li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li><li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li><li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li></ul>
Powell N-1	Please, no new jets on the Olympic Peninsula and no new flights with existing aircraft. I feel strongly that even the current "training" program is misguided. What you are doing damages me and my family, our environment and our local businesses. What you are proposing will do even worse damage. I have paid attention to military strategy for over 50 years and I sincerely believe that your current plan will net negative results in the long term. Please stop.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Powell S-1	The orca population in the Puget Sound is already facing extreme challenges. Efforts are under way to save them from starvation due to the collapse of their primary food source, salmon, and other environmental degradations. Increased military operations in this sensitive area may well push them into extinction. Please leave the sound out of your plans!	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Power-1	<p>Disturbing wild life in Olympic National Park is inexcusable! These parks are vital for people and animals in today's busy, noisy world. Plus having ground vehicles roaming around providing info on bombing in a sanctuary is incredibly stupid. There are, or should be, strict prohibitions of anyone creating any noises loud enough to both animals, and humans too, of course! There are nearby places, mid-state, that are almost desolate; surely using these sites is more logical and humane.</p> <p>There is evidence the excessive jet noise over our waters (Olympic Coast National Marine) has been shown to interfere with these sea creatures communications with each other! This has been shown already in studies by NOAA.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Powers-1	<p>The Navy promised very limited growth in the fleet of planes on Whidbey originally. Now the growth in fleet size and noise levels are hundreds of times larger than planned. And the Navy is resisting monitoring. And the Navy wants to use Olympic National Park and environs for testing. Whidbey is the wrong location for this type of base and exposed training plans for many reasons.</p> <p>Humans suffer. The noise levels are injurious.</p> <p>The park suffers. Preservation of the park environment requires quiet.</p> <p>The economy suffers. Tourism and overvalued are negatively affected.</p> <p>All types of birds, fish and marine mammals are affected by the pollution and noise levels. Sonar is especially tough on whales. Runoff from the bases in the area are toxic to all living organisms.</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	The base and training should be immediately moved to a less populated and environmentally sensitive location. Other ways of training might be considered. We would all thank you.	
Powers-2	I beg you. Please do not expand the growler training. Many reasons: 1 The ecological impact of the noise is huge. Marine mammals and birds are negatively affected. 2 Historical areas on Whidbey and in Port Townsend will be damaged and public use impeded. 3. The Olympic National park is a public treasure and its usage impeded. Environmental impact there also. 4. Residents' hearing will be damaged by the noise pollution. And having no monitoring will avoid proof. 5 Tourism and property values will be negatively affected. Please come up with a different, less widely damaging plan.	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Powles-1	I am 100% opposed to the Navy conducting sonar testing in the ocean. There is already unacceptable levels of noise and other disturbances for the living creatures that make the ocean home. It is ignorance and arrogance that allows this sort of thing to continue. Please have respect for the life in and of the sea! No more interference with a world down there that we depend on for our very lives!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Prata-1	Please stop the sonar testing because it's proved that they are very dangerous to whales, orcas, dolphins and other cetaceans. The information is available on many studies made, such as: <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/full/10.1098/rspb.2013.0657">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/full/10.1098/rspb.2013.0657</a> <a href="https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/1365-2664.12955">https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/1365-2664.12955</a> <a href="https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2017.00295/full">https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2017.00295/full</a> And many others. Please understand that the planet is like a ship. I guess you agree that no one wants to destroy and sink its own ship. That would be foolish, correct? Earth is all of us and we are connected by our and others actions. The NAVY contribution can only be important if life continues to exist, you know that, right?	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Thank you for giving me a chance to send you my opinion about this subject.	
Pratt-1	Marine mammals need their hearing to survive. Sonar causes marine mammals distress, behavioral issues, and loss of hearing. There is no need for this cruelty. Haven't we already done enough to harm our oceans and the animals living in it? Please stop underwater sonar testing, I am 100% against this and anybody who has half a heart and understands the harm it causes to marine mammals would be against it too.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Preece-1	I am writing to say that I am 100% against the testing of Navy sonar as it is known to cause deafness in marine mammals. Watching videos of Washington's already endangered orcas swimming away from Navy sonar testing deeply saddens and enrages me. Protect the marine life.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Preston-1	Training flights are needed and should continue. If there is a way to not disturb Orca that would be great. When I am hiking it is fine to hear a jet roar by, it is a reminder that we have freedoms to protect. This state offers unique training terrain and should be allowed to continue.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record. The Navy has conducted active sonar and explosives training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area.
Prioletti-1	These testing are unacceptable, harsh, and inconsiderate of these beautiful hatless wild animals! Needs to end ASAP	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Provost-1	THIS SONAR SOUNDING IN OUR SEA ANIMALS MUST STOP!! THIS TESTING DISRUPTS THEIR LIVES CAUSING EXTREME DISTRESS AND HEARING LOSS! MUST BE STOPPED NOW!!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Prudence-1	<p>Please do not test sonar and electromagnetic blasts in our oceans. We must protect marine life from damage, death, and stress caused by these explosions and loud sounds. They deserve to live without harassment or damage.</p> <p>The ocean is an acoustic world and these sensitive beings rely on their sense of sound for survival. They communicate with each other, use sound to find mates, and to search for food. Whales communicate over hundreds of miles. The sound blasts even interfere with their immune systems. They have no where else to go to escape these devastating noises. The seismic blasts have been found to kill 2-3x adult and larva zooplankton, which the entire marine ecosystem relies on.</p> <p><a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-017-0195">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-017-0195</a></p> <p>Please protect our marine life and stop all seismic and electromagnetic blasting.</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Pullaro-1	<p>Please balance your needs to perform Sonar Testing! It is life threatening to our future sealife. Please I need to show my grands, not yet, to this beautiful world we live in. Please save it, STOP, please.</p> <p>Thank you 🐬🐳🐋 #DolphinProject #KeikosLegacy</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Putney-1	Please stop testing and training near cetaceans. Our oceans the lives that are struggling to exist there need protection as well. We've done enough damage to these ecosystems, and the suffering this unnecessary testing does is wrong.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Putter-1	This is unkind and the world is in need of kindness. Surely in our modern society, these outdated methods can be replaced with something more environmentally friends. It's not only the whales that are suffering due to this practice, whales are the highlighted species as they are the biggest of ocean creatures, all ocean creatures are affected by this and it needs to be stopped before we have nothing left of before the delicate balance of nature is so unbalanced that there is just nothing left for generations to come. Surely people care about their grandchildren experiencing the same creatures as we did growing up as kids, surely the navy employs people with hearts and families. Stop destroying this planet for mankind's need for money, extinction plays a far more important role than the need for money	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Pyles-1	Please don't add more strain on our coastal waters, we are already in an environmental crisis and it would be ridiculous for the navy to not respect our environment.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>Q</b>		
Q-1	There are endangered species that will be heavily affected by this sonar testing. Please reconsider your actions and the environment around you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Quackenbush -1	<p>The Pacific Northwest has become the last bastion of pristine and abundant beauty. Orcas Island in the archipelago of the San Juan Islands--a National Monument--has become a symbol for quality of life. This identity is an attraction for visitors worldwide who are seeking a place unviolated. These visitors keep us thriving economically--a critical issue with wide repercussions.</p> <p>The numbers of Growlers in our skies now have negatively impacted our community's quality of life by their noise pollution. By proposing to purchase 36 additional growlers and quadruple growler test flights at Whidbey Island Naval Base, the Navy is not protecting us, it's proposing to destroy Washington State's economy.</p> <p>The marbled murrelets, an important indicator species, will be eradicated if this proposal becomes a reality. More study of them and other potentially affected inhabitants of our land, air, and water needs to be done.</p> <p>For the reasons above and many more I don't have time to list, I am opposed to this project.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Quarto-1	I urge the halting of the training of Navy pilots over the Olympic National Park and WA coastline! The ongoing Navy Growler aircraft training missions should not disturb the peace in order to prepare pilots for war. Both people and wildlife are negatively affected by these noisy, disturbing flights, and there are alternative warfare training sites much better suited for this kind of activity. The reason for establishing a national park in the first place is to preserve its unique nature, tranquility and beauty of the place, while maintaining the park's unique features and wilderness experience. The	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Navy Growler training flights are not preserving the peace, but openly and irreparably declaring war on the very nature of the Olympic National Park, its visitors and wildlife and all the Park has to offer. These training missions must stop there so those millions of visitors to ONP can again experience the peaceful joy and quiet that they came there for!	where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Querceto-1	whales and dolphins see with their ears, mapping out their vast, dark underwater environment with an exquisite sensitivity to sound. And for many years now, the growing amount of manmade noise in the ocean has been blinding them. One particularly devastating source of that noise is used by naval vessels to detect submarines and other objects beneath the surface. The intense, high-volume, and far-ranging sound waves blasted by active sonar are traumatic for marine mammals, and evidence has been mounting for more than a decade that they pose an existential threat to many species. Please stop the testing that is hurting/killing these animals!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Quinlan-1	Do NOT do anything that will injure the whales and other marine mammals!!!! They are IMPORTANT !!!!! Do not do this.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li><li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li><li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li><li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li><li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li></ul>
Quinn-1	absolutely imperative to not test in our waters. have you ever heard how loud these sonar blasts are? it will destroy life in the ocean as we know it. humans are responsible for nearly one million species going extinct. please do your part and protect the oceans	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
<b>R</b>		
R I-1	I'm against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. Please stop it !	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
R J-1	I'm against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. Please stop it !	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Racine-1	If you know that something is wrong, or harmful, you stop doing it. Your rights end where another's begin and just because they cannot speak for themselves in a way that you understand does not mean that they don't count. Shame on you	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Radford-1	I am against sonar testing. This is very harmful to any cetaceans in the water. It can be heard by them for miles. Stop sonar testing	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rafael-1	<p>Thank you for providing this forum.</p> <p>I urge you to cease the sonar testing which has grave dangers on the already under populated souther resident killer whales. These highly intelligent sentient beings have extraordinary hearing and sensors which affect they social behaviour. As such their day to day lives are bring gravely affected by these sonar activities. We need orcas In our seas. More importantly we need healthy orcas who are able to contribute living their lives properly and as Mother Nature Intended.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Raging-1	<p>God Help America (sing to the tune of God Bless America)</p> <p>God help America</p> <p>We need you BAD!</p> <p>Cause our leaders are cheaters</p> <p>And they're making the world really mad.</p> <p>Climbing mountains, crossing oceans</p> <p>And invading foreign soil...</p> <p>God help America</p> <p>No blood for oil, God forgive America, no blood for oil.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Rakofsky-1	<p>I am opposed to the Navy's proposal to expand their testing of weapons and sonar into the ocean off the Mendocino Coast. The proposed use of sonar can lead to the bursting of sea mammals' eardrums. Additionally the underwater mines and missiles the Navy would explode contain live ammunition, which is full of toxins. Testing these in the ocean of the Mendocino coast will jeopardize the area where marine life congregates to feed on the great upwelling of nutrients and threaten the entire food web of the ocean.</p> <p>The Mendocino Coast is part of the Marine Protected Areas because of our ocean's biological diversity. This should protect the marine mammals from sonar testing, but it hasn't seemed to stop the Navy from moving forward with their plans.</p> <p>Research from the Proceedings of the Royal Society B and other reputable agencies have shown that naval sonar has devastating effects on marine life. The sound emitted by sonar is so intense that marine mammals will swim hundreds of miles, dive deep into the abyss or even beach themselves to flee from the sounds that are literally unbearable to them.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Before the 1960s whales stranded on our beaches was a rare occurrence. However when the US Navy began using MFAS or Mid-frequency Active Sonar to detect submarines, beaching of whales increased and eventually became much more common. Research shows that the beached whales found in the Canary Islands, where MFAS was being used, had nitrogen bubbles in their blood which can cause something similar to decompression sickness, which results in hemorrhaging and damage to vital organs. Northern California is one of the most nutrient rich productive coastlines in the world. It is also part of the migratory route of gray whales, humpbacks, blue whales and Killer whales. Our coast is also home to dolphins and porpoises and, of course, many varieties of fish.</p> <p>The proposed trainings by the Navy is likely to harm dozens of protected species of marine mammals as the sound level of the sonar can be as high as 140 decibels, which is 100 times more intense than the level known to alter whale behavior.</p> <p>I urge you to stop the Navy's proposed war training expansion off the Pacific Northwest coast.</p>	
Ramey-1	<p>As a concerned citizen who regards the Olympic National Park as a national treasure, I ask the US Military to please not conduct training exercises in or around our national park areas or along our shoreline. Please instead conduct them far from these areas and the shoreline minimizing the impact on children, adults, birds, fish, marine mammals, all wildlife and the communities. Training exercises around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary as well as other sensitive areas should be avoided. These are places which should be protected by all Americans; they should remain a safe haven from the impact we experience when subjected to the effects of military training exercises. I object to the plan to do any military training exercises in, over, or around National Parks and all places where people and wildlife should be free from being subjected to anything military related.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Ramos-1	<p>Beached whales and dolphins are potential byproducts of these harmful tests.m that are in substantiated and unnecessary. Please stop.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ranoa-1	Please stop the sonar testing and consider the marine animals that you are hurting. You would want harm being done to you or your family right? Return the respect and stop this please.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ransom-1	It is obvious that fleeing marine mammals during the testing that end up with ruptured ear drums and end up dead on the beach is proof enough that the navy sonar testing is causing irreparable damage to these animals. War is not the answer to evolution. The United States has always supported the Military Industrial Complex that Eisenhower warned against. Do we have to continue preparing to kill people in countries 1/2 way around the world in both hemispheres as well as killing our oceans mammals, flora and fauna of these great lands will become collateral damage. Another great extinction is under way according to a large number of scientists as we speak unless the Navy (and other military) turns this ship around. Please think about this, one small step to avoid more suffering, more killing. The journey of change starts with the 1st. step. Stop the sonar testing.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ransom-2	Humans share the planet with other creatures. We see the whales migrate up and down our coast twice a year. We must not harm them through selfish war training. If America is truly great we should shift our attention to respecting others right to live by example. The fishing industry needs to do there part too.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Rashid-1	<p>It is very clear to me that the sonar testing is harmful to - not only - the southern right killer whales in the Salish sea but harmful to many other marine animals.</p> <p>The Navy are aware that these tests can irreversibly damage the hearing of these creatures and yet persist.</p> <p>What they are engaging in is wilful, conscious animal abuse and the practice must stop. Just because the dreadful noise can not be heard above water does not lessen the impact of the damage caused.</p> <p>State funded Animal abuse from a military organisation. This must stop.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rasker-1	<p>The research is in, and sonar will kill and/ or beach whales.</p> <p>As the world is facing a climate crisis, whales are being challenged with unhealthy habitat, and lack of food.</p> <p>We as a nation can not add to the stresses already posed upon these mammals.</p> <p>I, for one, do not condone threatening their existence on this planet.</p> <p>The Navy will not have my support for these proposed actions. And, the navy is working for us!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rasmussen-1	<p>I do not want the US military doing bomb/missile testing in the Pacific Ocean or any other oceans that they're thinking of testing in. Our eco system is so fragile, that kind of testing HAS to have detrimental, negative impacts on our waters.</p> <p>Besides that, I fear war and the only reason for bombs is for killing, maiming, resulting in more of the same and i am totally against it. Trump needs to learn to keep his mouth shut and quit egging other countries on. War is not the answer. Thank you. Jan Rasmussen, a voter, age 69</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rathbone-1	<p>The Navy predicts that there would be more than 500,000 instances of marine mammal behavioral impacts, harassment, and injuries over five years, including 275,000 instances of temporary hearing loss, and more than 600 instances of permanent hearing loss.</p> <p>Vessel strikes from increased water traffic will increase marine mammal death rate. We have already seen the loss of nine grey whales in the San Francisco Bay area in the last six weeks. The western North Pacific</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>population of grey whales is estimated to include fewer than 200 individuals. We cannot afford to put these animals in greater danger. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Risks to marine mammals, fish, and birds from entanglement in wires, cables, and parachutes, and ingestion of expended military materials and toxic debris will increase. The Navy holds no responsibility to clean up their spent munitions and debris. [REDACTED]</p> <p>The public opposes this. Please cancel this project.</p>	
Rau-1	<p>Please consider the whales, they're already starving, sonar makes the situation worse. I support the whales</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ravella-1	<p>My name is Julia Ravella. I am currently a student in Environmental Studies at the University of San Francisco, but I grew up in Fort Bragg, California. I am writing to comment my concerns on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project.</p> <p>I am registering my strong opposition to this project. The science assuring that preventative measures will be taken to limit marine mammal impact needs more research especially since the projected war testing sits in the path of grey whale migration--vital to grey whale reproduction. There is a global history of sonar and other war time activities contributing to suicidal behavior in whales and mass beachings. Beyond the ecological impacts, if the gray whale migration patterns are disrupted it will contribute to the economic instability of coastal towns, like Fort Bragg, that rely on the environmental tourism of the gray whale migration.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ray D-1	<p>Please end all growler flights along the Salish Sea! The threat to marine life has been documented-</p> <p>The threat to air quality is well documented. The threat to my health ( I've been diagnosed with Heart failure -much of it due to air quality) I will have to move if our arrogant military does not stop Training flights.</p> <p>If we continue increased training flights -we may have a strong military to protect us-with nothing to protect except a ruined environment -that cannot support the quality of life we currently enjoy.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Trusting military leaders -has throughout our history as a nation has not served us well-the examples are numerous. (I.e. The Japanese American Incarceration of 1942 and the Vietnam War etc.)</p> <p>I'd like to know: What is the cost/benefit of increased flights?</p>	
Ray P-1	<p>Please consider the following and cancel your plans for sonar testing. I don't know how to word things to convince you so I have quoted these comments from Alex Larson. And cited a research article beneath that. When I read about the cruel, painful torture these magnificent creatures are subjected to before they ultimately are killed or compelled to beach themselves or die of the bends, it made me sick. Please stop this action before more species of whales are brought to extinction.</p> <p>We have known for a long time that naval sonar has devastating effects on marine life but just exactly how it leads to sickness and death was a mystery till now. In new research published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, they discovered that the sound emitted by sonar is so intense that marine mammals will swim hundreds of miles, dive deep into the abyss or even beach themselves to flee from the sounds that are literally unbearable to them.</p> <p>In particular, beaked whales are one of the marine mammals that are often found beached due to sonar testing. Prior to the 1960s, beaked whale strandings were extremely rare. But once the 60s rolled around, the Navy started to use mid-frequency active sonar (MFAS) to detect submarines. And from the 60s onwards, whales washing up on beachings became a very common occurrence. The paper recently published is a summary of what was discussed at a 2017 meeting of beaked whale experts in the Canary Islands and revealed that sonar distresses beaked whales so much that the marine mammals ends up with nitrogen bubbles in their blood very similar to what divers would call decompression sickness or the bends. The nitrogen can cause hemorrhaging and damage to whales vital organs. The big question that was brought up was how an animal that lives in the ocean and is adapted to perform deep water dives for hours at a time can obtain decompression sickness? Well simply, the sonar is so powerful, the animals dive deep too quickly causing the sickness.</p> <p>"In the presence of sonar they are stressed and swim vigorously away from the sound source, changing their diving pattern," lead author Yara Bernaldo de Quiros told AFP.</p> <p>"The stress response, in other words, overrides the diving response, which makes the animals accumulate nitrogen. It's like an adrenalin shot."</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, and the "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)" (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>).</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The conclusions are drawn from autopsies of dead whales, although a handful of animals were killed by other threats inflicted by humans, such as collisions with ships or entanglement in fishing nets, as well as disease. The authors note that to mitigate the impacts of sonar on beaked whales, we must ban its use in areas where they're found. A moratorium on the use of MFAS around the Canary Islands in 2004 shows just how well this works – no atypical strandings have been seen since. The researchers urge other countries where sonar is deployed, such as the US, Greece, Italy, and Japan, to follow suit.</p> <p>In addition to the above I refer you to this article:  “Gas and Fat Embolic Syndrome “ involving a mass stranding of beaked whales Family Ziphiidae) Exposed to Anthropogenic Sonar Signals by A. Fernández, J.F.Edwards, F. Rodríguez  Research Article <a href="https://doi.org/10.1354/BP.42-4-446">https://doi.org/10.1354/BP.42-4-446</a>  By the American College of Veterinary Pathologists</p>	
Ray P-2	<p>We have known for a long time that naval sonar has devastating effects on marine life but just exactly how it leads to sickness and death was a mystery till now. In new research published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, they discovered that the sound emitted by sonar is so intense that marine mammals will swim hundreds of miles, dive deep into the abyss or even beach themselves to flee from the sounds that are literally unbearable to them.</p> <p>In particular, beaked whales are one of the marine mammals that are often found beached due to sonar testing. Prior to the 1960s, beaked whale strandings were extremely rare. But once the 60s rolled around, the Navy started to use mid-frequency active sonar (MFAS) to detect submarines. And from the 60s onwards, whales washing up on beachings became a very common occurrence. The paper recently published is a summary of what was discussed at a 2017 meeting of beaked whale experts in the Canary Islands and revealed that sonar distresses beaked whales so much that the marine mammals ends up with nitrogen bubbles in their blood very similar to what divers would call decompression sickness or the bends. The nitrogen can cause hemorrhaging and damage to whales vital organs. The big question that was brought up was how an animal that lives in the ocean and is adapted to perform deep water dives for hours at a time can obtain decompression sickness? Well simply, the sonar is so powerful, the animals dive deep too quickly causing the sickness. "In the presence of sonar they are stressed and swim vigorously away from the sound source, changing their diving pattern," lead author Yara Bernaldo de Quiros told</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, and the “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)” (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>).</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>AFP.</p> <p>"The stress response, in other words, overrides the diving response, which makes the animals accumulate nitrogen. It's like an adrenalin shot."</p> <p>The conclusions are drawn from autopsies of dead whales, although a handful of animals were killed by other threats inflicted by humans, such as collisions with ships or entanglement in fishing nets, as well as disease. The authors note that to mitigate the impacts of sonar on beaked whales, we must ban its use in areas where they're found. A moratorium on the use of MFAS around the Canary Islands in 2004 shows just how well this works - no atypical strandings have been seen since. The researchers urge other countries where sonar is deployed, such as the US, Greece, Italy, and Japan, to follow suit.</p>	
Raymond B-1	<p>I recognize that Growlers are a part of our tactical and strategic posture. I recognize that training of Growler pilots and crew is essential to maintaining our actual and perceived military readiness. That said, the question remains what level of training is essential and to what extent can the locus of training take account of differential impacts on environment, including human populations, wildlife, and nature.</p> <p>Is there any level at which the Navy would say the environmental impacts outweigh the requirement for military readiness or is there any impact level at which the Navy would determine that a change in location of training is warranted?</p> <p>The increased Growler activity certainly impacts my life here in La Conner. I have no way to assess whether the levels chosen by the Navy are the minimum level necessary to meet national military preparedness requirements and that the training must be conducted in the assigned areas. Given the difficulty or impossibility of assessing those trade offs. Only the Navy can determine that. I wish I had confidence in the willingness of the Navy to decide on a minimal level of disruption to lives and environment.</p>	<p>The Navy has determined that the alternatives represent the minimum training for the appropriate number of Naval forces to gain the necessary levels of readiness for the commander to be confident of meeting 10 U.S.C. 8062 requirements.</p>
Raymond W-1	<p>Approval of this permit and approving the extension of an additional 2 years is negligent at best.</p> <p>The NAVY has no intention of tracking any marine animals behaviorally affected by their practices to see the long term damage caused.</p> <p>The NAVY has stated that spotters will be used to shut down sonar systems in case of a whale sighting. This is insufficient for 2 reasons. One, the NAVY can not even spot whales close enough to their vessels to avoid boat strikes. And 2, the low frequency sonar the NAVY plans to use travels at a range of whale hearing that has not been studied by anyone including the</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>NAVY. The fuel alone expected to be expelled into the ocean from the Jets proposed by the NAVY for use should be reason alone to deny the permit for these activities in any marine environment let alone this particular diverse place. The cumulative effect of further harassing activities should not be allowed with orca, California sea lion and northern elephant seals struggling with mass mortality rates from starvation. NOAA has a responsibility to act as the ocean's shepherd and protector. These activities need to be denied a permit.</p>	
Rayne-1	<p>I am concerned that real time, on the ground decibal measurement of Growler practice flights at OLF have not been included as part of the EIS. The impact of the very loud jet sound on human beings and the environment cannot be accurately understood if the real measurement is not known. Averaged, computer monitored sound levels are not the same as the real decibal measurements, and should not be accepted as such.</p>	<p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015. <sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Recek-1	Please stop terrorizing marine life. Stop tha navy testing.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/marine-species-monitoring">www.navy.mil/marine-species-monitoring</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Recker-1	<p>Hello, thank you for your service.</p> <p>In light of the health and stress to the local orca Jpod in the Salish sea it is unacceptable to be testing underwater sonars within their vacinity. The very nature of sonar makes that vascinity very large. They recently have had a new birth and I think everyone can agree we want it to survive. It was a tragedy what happened last year to the calf and adolescent female.</p> <p>Please stop underwater sonar testing in the local waters of the Salish sea.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Record-1	I am against sonar testing. I'm shocked that this is even a possibility. We need our marine life healthy so WE can continue to live on this planet. 🙏	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rector-1	<p>The Navy promised very limited growth in the fleet of planes on Whidbey originally. Now the growth in fleet size and noise levels are hundreds of times larger than planned. And the Navy is resisting monitoring. And the Navy wants to use Olympic National Park and environs for testing. Whidbey is the wrong location for this type of base and exposed training plans for many reasons.</p> <p>Humans suffer. The noise levels are injurious.</p> <p>The park suffers. Preservation of the park environment requires quiet.</p> <p>The economy suffers. Tourism and overvalued are negatively affected.</p> <p>All types of birds, fish and marine mammals are affected by the pollution and noise levels. Sonar is especially tough on whales. Runoff from the bases in the area are toxic to all living organisms.</p> <p>The base and training should be immediately moved to a less populated and environmentally sensitive location. Other ways of training might be considered.</p> <p>We would all thank you.</p>	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Rector-2	<p>Please do not expand the growler training. Many reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The ecological impact of the noise is huge. Marine mammals and birds are negatively affected.</li> <li>2 Historical areas on Whidbey and in Port Townsend will be damaged and public use impeded.</li> <li>3. The Olympic National park is a public treasure and it's usage impeded. Environmental impact there also.</li> <li>4. Residents' hearing will be damaged by the noise pollution. And having no monitoring will avoid proof.</li> <li>5 Tourism and property values will be negatively affected.</li> </ol> <p>Please come up with a different, less widely damaging plan.</p>	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Reham-1	We must protect all marine life, it's essential for for our survival.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Reid-1	I have several family members in the military and retired from military (Navy specifically) and I understand that many things are done to help ensure safety for our nation. However, sonar testing that causes underwater mammals to go deaf seems reckless, socially irresponsible, and	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	cruel. Please stop the testing and deafening of our marine wildlife. They are already subject to increased underwater noise that causes them distress, we don't need to add painful insult to injury. Please stop underwater sonar testing for the sake our planet. It is callous to not consider alternate methods. It is callous to continue a practice known to cause irreversible damage to these mammals.	EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Reily-1	Knowing that sonar causes major damage to marine mammals, please consider banning its usage in areas of migratory routes or residency. We need to find alternatives.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Reinders-1	The noise emitted by the Growlers is inconsistent with the National Park. I have visited areas in the National Park numerous times, both in the mountains and the coastal strip and had to listen (and watch) Growlers for hours and days. The Navy needs to stop treating the Olympic Peninsula like it is some deserted landmass in the middle of the Mohave Desert where military training operations can be conducted with impunity. We live here. We were here before the Growlers. The Park was here before the Navy and way before the Growlers. The sooner the Navy realizes that the people and the Park aren't going away, the sooner the Navy can start its search for more appropriate training areas. Our country has built and is building bases left and right in foreign countries like Afghanistan and in Africa. \$140 million right now in Africa for a new drone base; but somehow when it comes to bases in this country there is no money for locating them in areas other than one of the fastest growing regions in the country that is surrounded by pristine national parks and wilderness areas? Not adding up for me. Can't even sleep with my windows open at night anymore in Port Townsend due to the Growler noise. Not acceptable.	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Reinhardt-1	The U.S. Navy should halt their war training exercises near the path of the annual Gray Whale migration off the U.S. Northwest Pacific Coast. The exercises include massive sonar, huge explosions and harmful chemicals being released into the ocean. The Gray Whales should not have to travel through this deadly environment twice every year. There is really no excuse for this.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Reiser-1	<p>The Sinkyone Council and its member Tribes continue to oppose the Navy's training and testing activities, and are demanding stronger protections for the ocean and the Tribes' cultural ways of life. The adequacy of the assessment of Tribal cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy's training and testing activities is especially important because these activities take place in the Pacific Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and is critically important for the wellbeing of all people and lifeforms on this planet.</p> <p>The Navy should work meaningfully with the Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <p>The Navy should prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals.</p> <p>The "best available science" referenced in the draft SEIS should be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTRC.</p> <p>The Navy's monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy should expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not</p>	Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.	
Rennacker	<p>I strongly oppose Navy Wargames testing and training that deploys explosives, chemicals and sonar in the path of our migrating grey whales, blue whales, endangered pilot whales and other marine mammals such as porpoises and dolphins.</p> <p>Our ocean is suffering from acidification, lack of the nutritive-filled upwelling that brings food for the marine mammals, and a die-off of kelp, the starfish that control the purple urchin population, and the recent deaths of over 15 whales in the Bay Area of California. These are only a fraction of the dead marine mammals who wash up on shore, most die at sea and sink to the bottom. Some recent necropsy studies found that the dead marine mammals suffered malnutrition, wounds from ship strikes and punctured eardrums. These creatures depend on their hearing to find food, communicate with their young and their pods, and die if they are deafened. The Navy proposal to have a man on deck “spotting” whales is woefully inadequate, and with blue whales virtually impossible. Their adopted 12 mile corridor from the shore is certainly inadequate as well. The sound emitted by sonar has devastating effects on marine life, as it is so intense that marine mammals will swim hundreds of miles, dive deep, or even beach themselves to flee the sounds that are literally unbearable to them. The dead whales and other marine mammals are so distressed by sonar that they end up with bubbles in their blood very similar to what divers would call decompression sickness or the bends. The nitrogen cause hemorrhaging and damage to whales vital organs.</p> <p>The big question as to how an animal that lives in the ocean and is adapted to deep dives can obtain decompression sickness? It is the presence of loud sonar (which carries under water) stresses them to the point that they swim away vigorously from the sound source, change their diving pattern, and accumulate nitrogen like an adrenalin shot. We already lose many marine mammals to disease, ship strikes and entanglement in fishing nets. The only way to mitigate the impacts of sonar is to ban the use of sonar in the path of migrating grey whales and in areas where beaked whales are found.</p> <p>Thanks for considering my opinion.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rennhack-1	Enough has been done already to disrupt the creatures of the ocean. Let them live in peace for God's sake.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Reyes-1	This is very sad and should not be allowed in sure with all the funding the military gets there is other ways to scan.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Rhoden-1	Please stop testing that negatively effects marine life	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Ribinson-1	It would serve the public better to practice war techniques in places that don't hold such high value to the people who live in and near the Olympic Peninsula. The whole point of the military is to protect the peace of the US citizens. I have grown up in Washington state and lately with all the growler flights it feels less peaceful around here than ever. Is there a better location such as an unoccupied desert or middle of America where there is plenty of uninhabited space to practice for war? You are choosing prime real estate and a very valuable National Park to practice war when all we want is peace. Please reconsider your idea to use this beautiful space as a war zone.	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Rice-1	<p>This Navy war games and testing that include massive explosives and "active sonar" is nothing new. But there is a reason they need to RENEW their permits regularly to do so. Things change. Values change. Priorities change. Our oceans are ailing...</p> <p>The oceans are getting more ravaged each year, with garbage gyres growing annually (this year measured at the size of the 19th largest COUNTRY in the world, see: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1780081968760624">https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1780081968760624</a>), acidification and massive coral reef dye offs, our local lack of bull kelp and urchin infestation compromising sustenance abalone harvests, this year several humpbacks are getting stuck in the SF bay because they do not have the reserves to make the migration to northern waters; not to mention the fisheries-of-no-more all along the entire north coast. All ecosystems of the oceans—outside explicitly protected and small reserves that are patrolled—are ailing, while an accelerated number of species are rapidly going extinct.</p> <p>Meanwhile, "Active Sonar" is a sound blast at 200 decibels. Death by sound for a HUMAN is at 185 decibels. The destructive capacity for miles with that radius is a real and dire concern given the state of ocean health.</p> <p>The Sinkyon Tribe already has a law suit out against the Fisheries for renewing permits with an incomplete EIS.</p> <p>Business as usual has left too much destruction in its wake—thus WHY these permits need reviewing every few years. It is a built in safe-guard to human life and the well-being of the oceans in which environmental, social,</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTTEIS.com">www.NWTTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	and economic well being are intimately intertwined. Unless they hear from you, me and many of us, these destructive permits will be issued.	
Rice-2	<p>The U.S. Navy's plan to expand war training exercises right in the path of the annual Gray Whale migration is WRONG in every way. The war training exercises that include massive sonar, huge explosions and many harmful chemicals being released into the ocean waters will put Grey Whales—and all marine life that coastal citizens depend upon to be healthy and robust for sustenance and well being—in intentional harms way. The Gray Whales will have to travel through this deadly environment twice a year during bi-annual migrations exposing calves and adults alike to unnecessary toxic chemical exposure while the delicate soundscape they depend upon for navigation and pod integrity will be blasted.</p> <p>Some suggest the Navy could move these exercises somewhere else, they don't have to be conducted in the Gray Whale migration path. But everywhere the U.S. Navy or other country's navies have conducted these war-training exercises, there has been extra loss of marine life. A country that already spends nearly \$30,000,000 EVERY HOUR on the military has NO EXCUSE to continue to expand these war games putting an already threatened earth and the ocean ecosystems into more perilous and toxic death traps. NO EXPANDED WAR TRAINING IN OUR OCEANS.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rice-3	<p>The U.S. Navy's plan to expand war training exercises right in the path of the annual Gray Whale migration is WRONG in every way. The war training exercises that include massive sonar, huge explosions and many harmful chemicals being released into the ocean waters will put Grey Whales—and all marine life that coastal citizens depend upon to be healthy and robust for sustenance and well being—in intentional harms way. The Gray Whales will have to travel through this deadly environment twice a year during bi-annual migrations exposing calves and adults alike to unnecessary toxic chemical exposure while the delicate soundscape they depend upon for navigation and pod integrity will be blasted.</p> <p>Some suggest the Navy could move these exercises somewhere else, they don't have to be conducted in the Gray Whale migration path. But everywhere the U.S. Navy or other country's navies have conducted these war-training exercises, there has been extra loss of marine life. A country that already spends nearly \$30,000,000 EVERY HOUR on the military has NO EXCUSE to continue to expand these war games putting an already threatened earth and the ocean ecosystems into more perilous and toxic death traps. NO EXPANDED WAR TRAINING IN OUR OCEANS.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Richards-1	<p>Regarding the proposed 'training' activities to be conducted off the Northern California coast. I would like to request that you cancel these exercises for the following reasons:</p> <p>#1 Modern computer simulations are more than capable of providing the resulting data that would be gained via physical tests, at a fraction of the cost and with nominal environmental impact.</p> <p>#2 The United States military is the most powerful fighting force on planet earth, with three times the resources of the second most powerful military. Only quantum leaps in technology can put us at a disadvantage, and those are unforeseeable.</p> <p>#3 The 'world' and by this I mean our planetary ecosystem upon which we all depend on for survival is currently undergoing a catastrophic assault known as "The Sixth Mass Extinction."</p> <p>This is perhaps the greatest threat our species has ever faced and this crisis will not be solved through the process of warfare. The solution is simply to cease and desist unnecessary acts of ecological destruction, and allow our ecosystem to regenerate.</p> <p>I would hope you would ask yourself in good conscience: are these tests truly necessary? There's no doubt that they cause harm, the only question is how much? Too much.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and good luck.</p>	<p>The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. In addition, see the discussion in Section 2.4.1.4 (Simulated Training and Testing Only) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS that discusses the need for live training specifically for aircrews.</p>
Richardson Da-1	<p>A 2016 study published in the Canadian journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbour porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, this does not include the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. "For marine mammals that utilise sound extensively, Limiting their ability to recognise these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival,"</p> <p>Over 7 years, harbour porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from Sonar, according to the Navy's calculations. Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioural reaction" ( anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound) at 101,377 times.</p> <p>I would urge you not to allow permits for the use of Sonar anywhere as it has been proven to be very disruptive to marine life, it just is not worth it. Why allow animals to suffer?</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Richardson Do-1	<p>The military does enough damage to humans, culture, industry and environment during war activities with out doing it to citizens and other harmful consequences in the US. I am sure there are other places and plans for necessary practicing than on Whidbey Island where great damage</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	occurs to humans, industry, culture. and the environment. As just a small example I live directly under the flight path of the Growlers during practice and the sound was so loud and potential damaging to the ears that I though I should try to protect my dogs ears and attempt to use ear plugs.	Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Richardson Sh-1	<p>The DEIS "No-Action Alternative" declares that this option would not meet the Navy's mandate for adequate military readiness. This falsely implies that only Alternative 1 &amp; 2 are viable options. The DEIS should outline other training and testing strategies that could be studied and employed to provide readiness. These options could include offshore training, or use of multiple training locations so as to minimize the impacts on any one area, among others. As currently written, this DEIS supposes that the activities outlined in the DEIS are their ONLY options which does not provide a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of potential solutions.</p> <p>There are several external costs (ex. property value losses, health impacts, productivity impacts) of living with jet noise not addressed in the DEIS. These external costs are imposed without warning or recourse on citizens across the region: in San Juan, Skagit, Jefferson, Clallam, and even Snohomish and Okanogan Counties. The proposed expansion will likely increase these costs and they need to be accessed and mitigated.</p> <p>The impacts of noise disturbance on wildlife are generally very poorly researched, although efforts have been increasing in recent years (Shannon et al. 2016). The lack of research places a burden on wildlife and resource managers charged with evaluating the likely impact of increased military flights on vulnerable ESA-listed species in both the terrestrial and marine environments. The DEIS should include additional testing/analysis to assess contribution of jet noise to ocean ambient noise in the region and analyze what impacts any increase of that noise on aquatic ecosystems in the region.</p> <p>Finally, it is American values and freedoms that the Navy is supposedly working to protect. It is with deep irony that the externalized impacts of Navy training and testing activities are being forced on residents and communities without respect to THEIR individual rights and freedoms. The Navy's externalized impacts must be minimized, and residents/communities fairly compensated for there to be a just and equitable outcome to the Navy's activities - and for America to be truly a place of freedom.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The wildlife population underneath and around the Olympic MOA have been exposed to military aircraft noise for an extended period. The proposed action does not represent new noise exposure events to the wildlife. Also, the statement that "impacts of noise disturbance on wildlife are generally very poorly researched" ignores the numerous studies that the DoD has sponsored in the past three decades. For example, many of these studies were included in the analysis of impacts to birds found in Section 3.6.2.1.4 (Impacts from Aircraft Noise) of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>Impacts from aircraft noise on marine life is analyzed in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For example, aircraft noise on marine mammals is specically analyzed in Section 3.4.2.1.4 (Impacts from Aircraft Noise).</p>
Richardson St-1	Please stop sonar testing as it can be incredibly damaging to the health and well-being of these beautiful orcas. In this time of extraordinary change, we	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	as a human race need to do everything in our power to care for our wildlife. Please do your part by not harming these magnificent killer whales.	Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rick-1	<p>Communities, and government organizations around the Salish Sea are struggling to maintain and restore Orca populations. Level A and B harassment by the Navy is not acceptable. Ongoing Navy training is already affecting the Southern Resident (USS Shoup in 2003). The Preferred Alternative 1 places the Navy in conflict with the desires of the people of the Pacific Northwest.</p> <p>Through out the NWTT-EIS-OEIS document reference is made to injury to individual animals, but no population effects are anticipated. By that logic a ship running aground would suffer injury but the fleet would be OK. Is the Navy OK with groundings? Effects on individuals matter. Cumulative effects matter.</p> <p>Why are Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program plans being developed now? That should be in place before any changes are made to training and testing activities. With data and analysis from the monitoring program, fact-based policies can be proposed. The draft EIS-OEIS repeatedly uses the phrase "would not be expected" and "are not anticipated". If this document were describing the effectiveness of weapon systems and the health effects on personnel, would that language be acceptable? There is a wonderful image on page 5 of the Northwest Training and Testing Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS Fact Sheet Booklet (April 2019) showing a sailor appearing to cover his ears while standing next to a firing Phalanx CIWS. I suspect he is not trying to protect his hearing, but is trying to communicate over headphones. The image does suggest an ad-hoc and wishful thinking approach that is mirrored in the NWTT-EIS-OEIS.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Please read the discussion of the event involving the USS SHOUP presented in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and the cited U.S. Department of the Navy (2004) <i>Report on the Results of the Inquiry into Allegations of Marine Mammal Impacts Surrounding the Use of Active Sonar by USS SHOUP (DDG 86) in the Haro Strait on or about 5 May 2003</i>. Pearl Harbor, HI: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for an accurate understanding of the event involving the USS SHOUP in 2003.</p> <p>The Navy's Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Plan has been in place since 2010. Please see Section 5.1.2.2.1.2 (Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for more information.</p>
Rick-2	Concerning aircraft operation. From a Navy public input poster, "AIRCRAFT NOISE ASSESSMENT - The Navy modeled noise from aircraft training activities in relevant operating areas. The assessment indicates areas underneath aircraft training would be exposed to less than 37 decibels Day-Night Average Sound Level." Seriously?! The "average" speed of a bullet less than 1 mph, but that first 250 mS is a killer. I live on Whidbey Island I KNOW the Navy is being dis-ingenuous with their pronouncements and analysis of aircraft noise. Expanding operation over the Olympic National	The results of the Navy's noise modeling in the Olympic Military Operations Area are accurate, based on the state of the art noise model, MR_Nmap, and is the appropriate method to evaluate aircraft noise in special use airspace such as the Olympic MOA. This model is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Park is not acceptable.</p> <p>This last paragraph is not substantial in terms of the NWTT-EIS-OEIS, but is regarding the image of the Navy. The Navy's actions in the Pacific Northwest are divisive and are harming communities here. In the long run, these policies will not be sustainable. Before that happens though the Navy will have expended the good-will of the people here.</p>	
Ridley-1	<p>When is this country going to wake up! When are we going to stop killing our marine life! Wake up Navy! You should be ashamed of the damage you are creating for our precious Orca's! STOP IT!!!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Rieke-1	<p>I am writing to share that I am 100% against underwater sonar testing, as it has been proven to cause harm to marine mammals, who are an essential part of our beautiful Pacific Northwest ecosystem that makes all our lives possible. Please cease this type of sonar testing immediately.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Riendeau-1	<p>I am writing you today to urge NOT to go ahead with the Sonar Project. It is detrimental to the safety and survival of the Southern Resident Killer Whales. I am opposed to it.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider and study further the devastating effects your Project will have to the Endangered Species. There are only 76 left. Please contact the Tofino Whale Centre in British Columbia. They are the experts.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Riley L-1	Citizens of the Puget Sound area are doing everything we can to ask you to hear us. Please consider that we and all the species that live here need you to be a better neighbor. Less noise, less pollution, less testing. You are supposed to be protecting, not harming us. The WA State constitution mandates that the military is required to cooperate with the citizenry. Having events at which you talk at us but we are not heard us not cooperation.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Riley N-1	I am against sonar testing. Please do not do this. We have done enough damage to our oceans and it's creatures. Orcas need to be able to hear in order to communicate and find prey. They do not deserve to be robbed of their right to live their lives. again, PLEASE do not follow through with the sonar testing. I am fully against it. Thanks.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Riordan-1	I am vehemently opposed to sonar testing...Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rivera N-1	We all want Orcas and other animals alive!!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rivera P-1	Please stop the Navy sonar testing! If they know its damaging to their hearing then they need to stop! These marine animals deserve to live a 100% natural life in their waters. No need to damage their hearing. Do it in a pool or something.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rivers-1	Knowingly endangering the lives of the southern resident Orcas is inexcusable. As a former resident of Vancouver Island I have seen these animals and more and wish to help keep them safe for their future generations	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Riwny-1	This spring, May 3, 2019 the Navy sent a group of ineffectual people to answer concerns about sonar testing. The site was a school gymnasium with no chairs and terrible acoustics. It was completely unorganized and questions to these people went unanswered. There was only one Navy	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	personnel in uniform. The Navy should postpone testing until the people who live on our Northwest Pacific shores have answers for many of our questions. I have seen videos of orcas who are completely confused by sonar testing. There is scientific proof that sonar travels 300 miles under water. Please do not begin these new sonar tests until more studies have been completed. Thank you.	and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Rizzato-1	No sonar testing! Protect endangered species	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Robbins-1	I am against sonar testing.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Robeau-1	Public participation is an important part of the National Environmental Policy Act process. Submitting substantive and concise public comments is one of the most important aspects of that process.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.
Roberts E-1	I have lived on Whidbey Island for forty year. I am a lifelong educator. Since the Growler flights began increasing its flights, the quality of life for all living creatures in the surrounding areas has deteriorated dramatically. Normal life under the earsplitting noise of Jets is impossible--and the anxiety and dread while waiting for the next round of touch-and-go's is unbearable. THIS MUST STOP!	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Roberts J-1	Please reconsider going through with the underwater sonar tests. I understand there are things you need to do for your jobs but this would have a substantially negative effect on marine life, in particular our already struggling whale population.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Roberts L-1	There needs to be an alternative that doesn't harm marine animals. Sonar testing has a serious affect on hearing of this marine animals and should stop immediately.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Roberts P-1	Stop harming our marine animals and wildlife. This is a crime and everyone associated should be put in jail for animal abuse.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Robisch-1	For many reasons I believe only the No Action Alternative in the EIS is acceptable and because of the length of the EIS and large area and number of people that will be adversely affected, the EIS needs to have a 90 day comment period. The Navy acknowledges that the Growler jets will generate excessive noise levels ranging from >85 dBA up 100 dBA. Constant exposure to these levels of noise has been proven to have significant adverse health effects such as significant hearing loss, high blood pressure and systemic heart disease. This clearly demonstrates that the Olympic Peninsula is totally unsuited for what the Navy is proposing, because it not only contains significant numbers of permanent residents in towns such as Forks and Amanda Park plus three Native American Reservations—Quinalt, Quileute and Hoh, it also contains large areas that have been designated as wildlife sanctuaries,	The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.  The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety). The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources).  The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>both land and marine based, plus the highly visited Olympic National Park and Forest. These designations, which began with President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907 and with additional areas being designated by numerous congressional actions, have existed over the past 112 years.</p> <p>The damaging highly excessive noise generated by flying 19 Growler sorties per day for 260 days a year over the Olympic Peninsula will make life virtually unbearable for the local permanent residents along with having a severely negative impact on the local tourist based economy and will completely defeat the purpose of the long established wildlife sanctuaries. In fact the Navy EIS is asking for an extension of a NOAA permit for “incidental takes of marine mammals...and incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine species” [EIS p. ES-4].</p> <p>Given the severely adverse impact this proposal will have on the Olympic Peninsula and the State of Washington I fail to understand the Navy’s position that this important training can only be done out of the Whidbey Island Naval Station and the Olympic Peninsula when it has been successfully conducted for decades over the isolated deserts of Idaho and Nevada using the Mountain Home Military Base which has been designed for this type of training. Furthermore even without the added Growler jets there are already numerous problems developing between the Whidbey Island Naval Station and the surrounding communities which include excessive noise levels and significant ground water contamination which translate into both a depressed quality of life and land values for the local residents. This inappropriate proposal will greatly add to these already existing problems.</p> <p>Therefore, only the No Action Alternative is acceptable for this EIS.</p>	<p>MOA’s designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA’s designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Robyn-1	<p>Sonar testing will result in whale and dolphin deaths. When we kill the oceans we kill ourselves.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rockafellow-1	<p>This is unacceptable. It is a known fact that this is harmful to marine life so why would you do this? The Southern Resident Orcas are an endangered species. This should not be happening anywhere near them.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		(Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rockhill-1	Don't test sonar in the Salish Sea. The southern resident orcas are endangered and clearly are distressed by the sonar signals. They are already highly stressed and struggling. Do not add to the significant stressors they are experiencing.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rodgers-1	Stop the use of sonar testing that causes harm to marine animals. Who are you to decide that it is okay to harm animals who cannot speak for themselves? Every marine animal plays a critical role in the ecosystem. Continuing these practices because you don't directly see the consequences is ignorant and is a disgrace to our nation. There are other ways to do these things without harming innocent beings. Please consider this in the future.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rodriguez A-1	Stop any under water drilling or tests. It is truly harmful to sea animals. Consider a very loud siren next to your house that literally wakes you any time you're trying to sleep or rest. I bet the shock would leave you very irritated. These tests are needless especially with all the contaminants in the oceans already. Please stop these tests and perhaps help and clean the oceans and help creatures not the other way around! Thank you for your time!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Rodriguez Al-1	I oppose sonic and any other noise testing in any sea. Please respect the animals who live in the seas.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rodriguez Mica-1	Leave these animals and our oceans alone!!!!!!!!!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Rodriguez Mich-1	The massive sonar sounds are punishing to the underwater wildlife world. Especially the whales!!! The fragile pods of orcas are fighting to stay alive! Do not allow whatsoever any testing in these waters! Are you heartless !!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Rodriguez W-1	As a Navy veteran I'm very upset that the US Navy still uses technology known to harm marine life that depend on sonar. Our whales, porpoises, dolphins and sharks require an atmosphere free of sonar noise. I have watched the series showing that side scan sonar is affecting our marine mammals and I'm concerned that the USA doesn't care although you have the facts and data proving that these tests are harmful. Please stop all sonar testing that we know is devastating to our whales, porpoises and sharks. Be the leader and tell Australia it's not acceptable to disregard marine life.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Roemers-Kleven-1	<p>Last summer the world watched as a Southern Resident Killer Whale carried her dead baby for 17 days in a procession around the Salish Sea that took her over 1000 miles of swimming. it was as if she was saying "Look at what you have done! You are killing us". When she finally let the baby go the females of J pod came by her side and supported her as she grieved. They nudged her into Eagle Cove on the West side of San Juan island where they created a circle of whales. They breathed deep and regularly and frequently touched her sides. They stayed there for hours and humans on shore observing this were convinced this was a private ceremony not unlike those humans hold when they lose a loved one. Then when J50 (the little spunky whale aka Scarlet) died all the whales of J, K, and L pod came together in a Super Pod (a whale gathering) from far, far away and were observed caring for J50's mother.</p> <p>My point is, these are salient beings with emotions like our own. They have their own culture and depend on language to stay connected, to rear their children and to find food. Their brains have more folds than ours and scientists have determined they are very, very smart.</p> <p>The Southern Resident Killer Whales are protected by the Endangered Species Act. Not unlike the Grey Whales, they are dying from malnutrition. The lack of salmon is their primary threat and is caused by environmental degradation and overfishing. Sound in the ocean has been well studied and does affect their ability to echolocate for their prey. (ECHO program Port of Vancouver). Toxins affect the food web and causes them to eat toxic salmon that kills their babies and young ones when they become malnourished.</p> <p>Their range is the entire Salish Sea and the coastal waters of Alaska, WA, OR and California. No longer do they just forage on the West side of San Juan Island. No longer are they predictable as to where they feed. They now frequently spend long times out in the ocean. When J 56 was born</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	recently and seen outside Tofino, Canada they didn't go to inland waters to nourish mom and baby. They went farther out West in the open sea. The Navy has announced it will be testing sonar in their range adding a huge impact on this already endangered species. We want a safe nation but if we hurt this many marine mammals and cause them damage or to strand what will we be left with as humans? An ailing ecosystem that lacks resilience and biodiversity.	
Rogers-1	Please end this torture for these poor whales! We need to change before everything we love is gone!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Rolland J-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only the No Action Alternative is acceptable to the Olympic Peninsula's environment</li> <li>• The comment period should be extended to a total of 90 days, so more people have time to understand and comment.</li> <li>• People in Forks have reported 94 dBA (decibels) with current flights. This EIS will bring many times more of these flights.</li> <li>• The activities stated in this EIS will damage Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.</li> <li>• This training operation will change one of the quietest places in America, Olympic National Park/Hoh Rainforest, to never again.</li> <li>• Since 1907, areas of the Olympic Peninsula have been set aside to protect the Peninsula wildlife. Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt and a series of congressional acts, this protection is in wildlife refuges, a national park for the enjoyment of its citizens, elk, other unique wildlife, wilderness areas to protect the resources from human damage, and a national marine</li> </ul>	<p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p> <p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>sanctuary. The area the Navy wishes to convert into an electronic warfare training area has been designated as an environmentally sensitive area for 112 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the EIS is asking for extension of a NOAA permit for "incidental takes of marine mammals... and incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine species." [EIS p. ES-4]</li> <li>• The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary was set aside by Congress to protect the sea life of the area. The Naval activities will cause unnecessary damage and should be, and can be, done elsewhere.</li> <li>• The noise of jet training emitter search flights will be harmful to the wildlife, people of the Peninsula, and the visitors to it. This makes the plan a detriment to the health and economy of the Peninsula and the state of Washington.</li> <li>• Idaho and Nevada training areas were designed for warfare training—the Olympic Peninsula was not.</li> <li>• This is not the way to treat a national park or a marine sanctuary. They were created to protect our environment.</li> <li>• The Navy says there will be 5,000 "Growler" jet flights a year over the Olympics. [EIS Appendix J, p. 12] (This would be an average of more than 19 search flights per day over the "Study Area"—5000 flights/260 days). This does not include training flights going out to and from vessels off the coast.</li> <li>• Noise levels (admitted to by the Navy) within the Olympic airspace range from over 80 dB to 100 dB at times [EIS J-22], which the Navy compares to hearing a garbage disposal to a handheld drill [EIS p. J-5].</li> <li>• "Continued exposure to noise above 85 dBA (adjusted decibels) over time will cause hearing loss. The volume (dBA) and the length of exposure to the sound will tell you how harmful the noise is. In general, the louder the noise, the less time required before hearing loss will occur." [Center for Hearing and Communication]</li> <li>• People in Forks have reported hearing 94 dBA flights under current EIS</li> <li>• There are other health problems that are caused or made worse by noise:</li> <li>• Noise causes &amp; aggravates health problems</li> <li>• High blood pressure (hypertension)</li> <li>• Heart disease (ischemic heart disease)</li> <li>• Increases or creates mental health problems</li> <li>• Other locations for this training are dismissed in 7 lines (out of 1,800 pages) as not offering the same proximity of ships and planes elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest (EIS Section 2, p. 2-21). But with millions of miles of</li> </ul>	<p>Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety). The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources).</p> <p>The Navy and NMFS have jointly consulted with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>coastline in the U.S., what about other parts of the country?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growlers will be routed over Olympic National Park, Lake Crescent, Sequim and Port Townsend as they transit back and forth between their Whidbey Island base and the Olympic training areas over the Hoh Rainforest and Forks (map on p. 2–19) (19– 20 times 2 = 38–40 passes over this area a day). The map also shows arrows of flight over the Olympic Mountains. The Navy has denied flying over Olympic National Park. This is untrue. Not only is this untrue, it is nearly impossible not to fly these missions over the Park.</li> <li>• "This Supplemental (EIS) does consider the cumulative impacts from these three projects as well as other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts)" [NAVY EIS p. I–9]. This is an unacceptable statement because the EIS does not. The EIS assumes if there is no study, then none is needed. There is a list of activities that could be cumulative; the list is far from complete.</li> <li>• Information on off-shore activities are vague but asking for "incidental takes" of threatened and endangered mammals is very concerning.</li> <li>• Many of the wildlife impact statements end with "are not anticipated." This usually means the result is unknown because of a lack of experience or knowledge.</li> </ul>	
Rolland S-1	<p>I do want to support you, and have in the past, but your recent intrusion into Olympic National Park air space, and your proposed increase in your impact is so disruptive and unnecessary that it proves you clearly don't care about our environment, economy or quality of life. You are losing good will and that will affect public support for you and your mission. Olympic National Park is the life blood of our peninsula economy. It and the quiet life here is why folks move here, build houses and support local businesses, including mine. The 3.1 million annual visitors support almost every business here. In the last few months I have talked to many tourists, and quite a few have mentioned that the constant Navy jet noise in Port Townsend and Olympic National Park have ruined their trips. Several folks said they would not come back to Port Townsend as it was not a relaxing visit with the noise. Most upset were the campers who had traveled over 1000 miles to spend a week in the Park, only to find themselves buzzed by a set of 3 low flying jets in a remote valley. This has become a common story here. You should be decreasing the number of flights in this sensitive area. I will let others speak to the damage to the animals in the park, my comments are focused on the people, their experience and how it will affect our economy and lives.</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>As people choose not to visit here from the noise, our economy will collapse and jobs will be lost.</p> <p>There are a lot of other places you could train, Mountain Home for one, that are not highly visited and environmentally sensitive National Parks and Biosphere Reserves. Your arrogance in destroying the most loved park in the Northwest is destroying your support. Please care about the people you think you are protecting.</p>	<p>The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources).</p>
Romberg-1	<p>My name is Annie and I am currently pursuing a Bachelor's in Environmental Science and management with an emphasis in Natural Resource Recreation at Humboldt State University. I am commenting on the draft supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing Final EIS/OEIS and oppose the future activities conducted off the northwest coastal zones including environmental impacts of military training activities, including missile firing, aircraft patrols, and the use of sonar. There are two main purposes, wildlife, and tribal rights.</p> <p>Although the navy has a spotter to see sea life that may be near the surface, not even the most trained eye can see what's happening under the water. Meanwhile, the sonar systems generate slow-rolling sound waves topping out at around 235 decibels that can travel for hundreds of miles underwater and can retain an intensity of 140 decibels as far as 300 miles from their source. Thus, if these effects can be seen in the crowded coast near San Diego, how will it affect waters rich in marine wildlife. Moreover, how will monitoring the effects of testing work if given the idea that severely injured animals rarely make it to shore. Secondly, interTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council concerns should be effectively addressed considering coastal activities that may affect the local resources and preventive measure should be taken.</p> <p>After taking into account cultural resources management methods, the EIS/OEIS) should include further details on cumulative effects and indirect effects in the foreseeable future. Particularly on hearing damage and changes in behavior among marine mammals, including Southern Resident orcas, blue whales, humpback whales, dolphins, and porpoises. More alternatives with the idea of going further out to sea while avoiding sensitive areas for all testing. Although it is understandable the Navy should be allowed to continue the use of some mid-frequency sonar testing for the sake of national security, there are more emanate dangers to our ecosystems.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy will continue to consult with the Tribes. Through Government-to-Government consultations, the Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality. See the responses to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council comments.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Rondelle-1	<p>We are not the only species entitled to exist in peace on this planet. We are part of a planetary biological system that will only thrive when all</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	beings can sustain proper balance. Clearly we are out of balance and the whale population is decreasing rapidly leaving the ocean, that we all need out of balance as well. Please wake up and realize this beautiful system that has been so perfectly created that is in great danger from the sonar testing. Thank you	Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Roomes-1	The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. There is no evaluation for other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas should be avoided. These areas have fragile plant, animal, and human inhabitants.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Rose Jen-1	Imagine every time you knock off work to shop for dinner, there is loud, shrill humming in your ears while you select your frozen fish dinner! Imagine when you jump in your car to head home, the same noise makes it hard to concentrate on traffic and hazards! Imagine getting home and when you walk in the front door a shrill, ear piercing noise starts and stops as you put your shopping away, greet the dog that's going mad with the noise and trying to hide under the bed to escape to no avail! Imagine your kids begging 'dad, make the horrible noise stop, our ears are hurting and we're getting sick but you can't as you have no idea where the noise is coming from or what's causing it, day in, day out! Imagine you cook and eat dinner dreading the next minute in case the noise starts, finally you go to bed exhausted from trying to block it out, you put your ear plugs in and ear muffs over those to try and get some sleep but still the noise penetrates just enough to wake you through the night till you wake exhausted and just want to scream, run or jump off a bridge because the noise never stops night after night! Orcas don't have ear plugs and you inflict that life on them and their friends and families as they try to get on with their lives, swim, catch dinner, play, rest, while you are earning a living at work driving them insane with the noise! They can't just hop in a Ford and drive out of the Ocean to escape the sonars you operate with no side effects apart from the odd yawn! Have mercy on the intelligent whales and orcas and dolphins, they would never dream of using ray guns on you!. Let them live without harmful, totally unnecessary human noise pollution	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	while you think about what you're having for dinner in peace and quiet I assume.	
Rose Jes-1	I am concerned about the effect of testing on species of marine mammals, including critically endangered Southern Resident orcas, blue whales, humpback whales, dolphins, and porpoises. I am concerned about the effect on whale mothers and calves.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rose S-1	I am worried about the effects of the sonar testing on the Mendocino Coast. Our beautiful coast is a treasured ecosystem that animals of all kinds rely on. Studies have shown that whale calf levels have decreased rapidly. The mothers need sufficient nutrition in order to get pregnant, and deliver a calf. If they are lacking this they will either not get pregnant in the first place, or abort the calf midterm. If sonar testing is happening near feeding sites in the arctic they will leave without getting enough nutrition for their migration down the coast. Sonar testing instantly causes deafness in any whales within five feet of the boat. I also reaches out in all directions 300 feet. The beaches and ocean are a sacred place for the citizens along the Mendocino Coast if the whales are washing up dead and the water is filled with heavy metals (No they will not "Just mix right in") how are the people supposed to raise their children on the beaches, and spend substantial time enjoying our oceans. How would you like it if you woke up en=very morning looked out your window and saw dead animals and toxic waste? I am only 13 years old and I want to raise my children on the coast, but if you do sonar testing how is that going to be a possibility? I leave you asking yourself will you make it safe for animals of all kinds to live on the Mendocino coast?	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rosling-1	I am concerned that the Navy is not listening to the public- specifically our concerns about the increased growler jet flights at olf. This is NOT a good co-existence with the environment, it's people and animals. I request that the PFA's in Coupeville drinking water be fixed. I don't see that happening with increased flights.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record. The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Ross A-1	I've been hearing about extraordinary numbers of beached whales along our West Coast. Whales and other sea animals depend on their hearing to communicate and survive. Navy sonar, which can travel 1000s of miles through the ocean and can even be amplified by some ocean conditions, is deafening for these creatures. Entire pods have been seen to struggle to	The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	escape these killing sounds. It seems your sonar operations will only add to ocean fragility, impacting all ocean life and our coastal community. Please respond. My question is “How you will mitigate these impacts???”	examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ross C-1	<p>I am concerned about the specifics of what meets your requirements of a substantive comment. You have narrowed comment to data. I think there is nothing more substantive than the concerns as expressed by Mr. Alfred Kitching, as stated in his letter to the Editor of the Peninsula Daily News, June 11, 2019 which i have copied here below:</p> <p>LETTER: Navy Growlers bring noise to wild places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday, June 11, 2019 1:30am</li> <li>• Letters to the Editor, Peninsula Daily News</li> </ul> <p>Wild place noises</p> <p>I have no doubt that Navy FA-18 Growlers are important to our national security, nor that there are strategic reasons for the Navy’s desire to have them remain where they are.</p> <p>I do doubt that there is no other reasonable way to protect our national security than to destroy the “peace,” the quiet — intrinsic to the beauty — of what is left of our wild places.</p> <p>This “peace” is not the abstract and never attainable “world peace” that is bandied about by politicians, but actual “peace.”</p> <p>Is such “peace” not the “peace” we all seek, we all need — the “peace” our warriors and their families have died and sacrificed for?</p> <p>Is such “peace” and beauty not a vital part of what makes this “America the beautiful?”</p> <p>It is one thing to live in a city and hear the jets flying overheard amid the competing sounds of our civilization — or to see and hear the Navy’s Blue Angels demonstration team scorching the blue sky during SeaFair in Seattle.</p> <p>It’s different to hear Navy Growlers destroy the silence of land set aside for the quality of that silence.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Our beautiful land is a shared gift to be passed on to our children and grandchildren.</p> <p>The Navy should heed John Muir: "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play and pray in. Where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike."</p> <p>Comments to the Navy may be submitted at <a href="http://www.nwtteis.com/">www.nwtteis.com/</a> by Wednesday.</p>	
Ross R-1	<p>I've read about at least 70 whales stranded on the West Coast this year already. Whales depend on hearing to communicate and survive. The devastating and deafening Navy sonar travels thousands of miles through the ocean, and can even amplify, causing irreparable damage to these animals. Entire pods have been seen to struggle unsuccessfully to escape these killing sounds. Many are beached, and it's inevitable that many more sink further out in the ocean and cannot be counted. This impacts an already fragile ocean and our coastal community. Please respond. What plans do you have to mitigate the damage?</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed mitigation measures are described in Chapter 5 of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Rosser-1	<p>Your use of studies conducted as far back as 1984 as source material for your EIS/OEIS draft is wholly unacceptable. So far this year, 70 gray whales washed ashore on the west coast, five times the average rate. NOAA has declared a wildlife emergency. The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that "military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor". At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that "for the most part," this material will be ingested by bottom feeders, Gray whales are bottom feeders. The SEIS needs to take into account the already stressed gray whale population. Scientific studies have shown that explosives and SONAR are very harmful to marine animals, especially whales and dolphins, Hearing is the way they see and communicate. Explosions deafen them, and a deaf while is a dead whale. And whales are a protected <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gray-whales-">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gray-whales-</a></p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>stranded-west-coast-1.5119056  <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a>            Moreover, the economic considerations are well-stated in the letter of opposition to sonar testing off the coast of Mendocino County by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in their letter to you dated April 21, 2019. To paraphrase: sonar and explosive testing off the Mendocino coast is detrimental to the fragile oceanic ecosystem on which we rely. The wide variety of sea life is a key economic source for our county and must not be damaged in any way.            Therefore, the naval exercise using explosives and sonar should not be held off the Mendocino coast. I'm sure the Navy will survive without this additional and very ecologically harmful testing of equipment on our coast.</p>	<p>The Navy uses the most current marine mammal population data available from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The 2008 and 2010 references cited in the comment were not used by the Navy to determine current populations.</p> <p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p>
Rotchford-1	<p>I have been to several of your public meetings and have found them dishonorable in that you have already made your decisions and care little about community input. Your broad plans for the Puget Sound Area are already being implemented even though you imply our input is important to you.            The history of your work with the Whidbey community and environmental and health concerns are regrettable and continue to need addressing. Please practice first things first; your responsibility is not shone here.            Last night, I woke to the growlers....you have lost my respect in your lack of environmental stewardship, health concerns and protective measures.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Rourke-1	<p>You're putting these animals in danger. Please don't do it.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Rudd-1	<p>I am writing to describe my concern about the impact of testing the Naval Rail Gun system and pilot mine-detecting underwater drones on marine mammals.</p> <p>Scientists have been learning more how sound can harm and even kill marine life and Naval testing already estimates temporary and permanent hearing loss for thousands of marine creatures in the Northwest. The increasingly noisy underwater home for marine life is causing substantial harm, including to resident Orca populations who rely on sound to hunt. I don't consider this kind of impact on marine life either insubstantial or insignificant. Instead of adding to the noise to Puget Sound, as this proposal would, we need to be subtracting from it.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rudin-1	<p>I am writing to add my voice ~ and those of my Family, to the Overwhelming Consensus of North Coast folks ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED to the Navy's planned War Exercises &amp; Sonic Testing. Many have sent reams of technical analyses &amp; Peer Review data covering the many unacceptable details, environmental impacts, toxic chemical pollution, and other DANGERS which concern us.</p> <p>I will address here ONE of the myriad Issues of Concern, which to my reasoning is the Bottom Line here: the proposed Sonic Testing is IRREPARABLY {MORTALLY} HARMFUL to Marine Mammals.</p> <p>The entire West Coast is Habitat and Migratory Pathway for many Whales and Dolphins.</p> <p>Where I live, we watch the Gray Whales pass by in large groups twice a year. The Human Communities hereabouts have annual "Whale Festivals", which bring visitors from around the World to witness this miraculous migration.</p> <p>This and other celebrations of the pristine ocean grandeur, are the basis of the Local tourist related Economy, a Major Point which I shall leave others to Elucidate in detail. We depend not only on tourism, but fishing, and exploration {both scientific and recreational} to sustain our rural economy. Non~Tribal, as well as Tribal Communities are actively engaged and dependent upon an intact and robust Ocean Ecosystem for Spiritual as well as material and economic sustenance.</p> <p>Here I shall quote Alex Larson of the Ocean Protection Coalition on this subject of Whale Mortality &amp; Sonar:</p> <p>"We have known for a long time that naval sonar has devastating effects on marine life but just exactly how it leads to sickness and death was a mystery 'til now. In new research published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, they discovered that the sound emitted by sonar is so intense</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>that marine mammals will swim hundreds of miles, dive deep into the abyss or even beach themselves to flee from the sounds that are literally unbearable to them.</p> <p>And from the 60s onwards, whales washing up on beachings became a very common occurrence. The paper recently published is a summary of what was discussed at a 2017 meeting of beaked whale experts in the Canary Islands and revealed that sonar distresses beaked whales so much that the marine mammals end up with nitrogen bubbles in their blood very similar to what divers would call decompression sickness or the bends. The nitrogen can cause hemorrhaging and damage to whales vital organs. The big question that was brought up was how an animal that lives in the ocean and is adapted to perform deep water dives for hours at a time can obtain decompression sickness? ...Simply, the sonar is so powerful, the animals dive deep too quickly causing the sickness.</p> <p>"In the presence of sonar they are stressed and swim vigorously away from the sound source, changing their diving pattern," lead author Yara Bernaldo de Quiros told AFP.</p> <p>"The stress response, in other words, overrides the diving response, which makes the animals accumulate nitrogen. It's like an adrenalin shot."</p> <p>The authors note that to mitigate the impacts of sonar on beaked whales, we must ban its use in areas where they're found. A moratorium on the use of MFAS around the Canary Islands in 2004 shows just how well this works – no atypical strandings have been seen since. The researchers urge other countries where sonar is deployed, such as the US, Greece, Italy, and Japan, to follow suit."</p> <p>Recent statistics {2019} from Monterey Bay show an alarming recent increase in Whale and Dolphin Mortality. <a href="https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/07/us/ninth-gray-whale-death-trnd/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/07/us/ninth-gray-whale-death-trnd/index.html</a></p> <p>This HUGE and serious Problematic Issue is well documented. I have touched on only one underlying aspect.</p> <p>However, I am aware, and SO ARE YOU, that the preponderance of evidence argues unequivocally for a MORATORIUM on this practice of Sonar testing. The area of impact ~ 300 miles ~ is inescapable for Whales and the resulting harm {death} is INEXCUSABLE.</p> <p>I support the Sinkyone Tribal protection zone. It's a start.</p> <p>Please Consider That this War Against the Whales, is contrary to The Peoples' Will, Nature's Will and the primary mandate of the U.S. Navy:</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	protection of our Coastline. Scrap these plans as they have been written.	
Rudin-2	<p>No action option. Whatever -- however it's worded in the EIR; I'll take all the papers home and I will read them. And I have read EIRs before, so they don't make my head explode. I know how to do that, I can read a THP. But did you not get an idea that we have a consensus in this community? Did you get a whole lot of people going, "Wow, the Navy, that's a good idea"? No, you didn't, did you? No. Not even the Navy people think it's a good idea. The people that are ex-Navy here go, "Watch out for those guys." This needs to stop. They stopped it for 12 miles for the Tribe, they can stop the whole thing for everybody. We're all tribes here. I mean, 12 miles is not going to help much, but there's a couple of other options, I understand from Hawk Rosales. He's one of the people on the Sinkyone Wilderness Consortium Committee. Priscilla Hunter was here, too. She's the once and future chief of the Noyo tribe. And there's ten tribes in the Sinkyone group. It actually is the first federal park that's administered by tribes. I imagine there's some more by now, but it was the first one a few years ago. And they had to fight really hard, and they had lots of meetings like this, and it wore everybody down, and everybody learned how to read EIRs and talk to people. And by golly, they managed to get their toe in the door. But this needs to stop. And people need to learn how to think a different way that supports life on this planet, and doesn't, like, "Oh, we can get away with a little bit. So what if a few whales beach and die because their heads are scrambled?" Those guys are bigger than us, they're smarter than us, we don't have a right to do this to them. And we don't have a right to poison the ocean. Do you have kids? Yeah. Yeah. I have a son, and grandnephews, and been trying to hold the line for a long time, since I was young here. I came here when I was young. And I'm not that young anymore, I don't expect that anybody's going to -- you know, I'm not putting on flippers to go out and meet the Navy, but we've got young people who will. And I know people like the Navy come around and they go, "Well, look at, the population isn't very big here, it's a sparsely populated rural area." That doesn't mean you get to trash it. And it doesn't mean the Navy gets to trash it. I'm not saying you personally, but we all figure out where our paycheck comes from, you know? And this has always been amazing to me. (Talks off record about court reporters.) No action option. Erase this plan. You don't want to be setting off bombs or doing sonar or put crap and phosphorous and garbage in that ocean, ever. Any part of it. But we'll start here with this part of it. And the tribes have managed to secure 12 miles,</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>which isn't going to help diddly. It will help a little, but, I mean, I don't know if the whales are, "Let's go over there," you know? "Come over here, it's safe," you know? No. They go down to Baja, they have their babies, and then they come back up here. And we see them twice a year, and we wave at them, and, you know, have little festivals, and drink wine, and watch them go by and spout. And that's nice, but it requires them to be alive and healthy. And that ocean out there is not healthy anymore. It's not necessarily the Navy's fault, but the cumulative impact. We've got global warming, we've got Fukushima, we've got all sorts of things. The temperature has risen and the kelp died off furiously over the last about three years. It's coming back a little. I don't know, I'm not an ocean expert. But I know we don't want this to happen, and we will resist it. They will not have a good time if they come around and try to do this. We will give them a hard time over and over and over again. And there may not be a whole lot of us compared to if you live in a city and you're looking around. We don't have that kind of look around in Fort Bragg, but we have who we have. And we've got kids.</p>	
Rueda-1	<p>I am 100% against sonic testing in the Salish Sea. This harmful practice endangers the marine ecosystem and the wildlife in it. Southern Resident Killer Whales are down to 76 members and it is our duty to do everything we can to protect them and ensure they have all the resources they need to make a comeback.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ruggieri-1	<p>Please protect the orcas from the sonic sounds. They are very sensitive to these noises. Thank you</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Ruhnke-1	<p>I am against sonar testing because it negatively impacts delicate wildlife including endangered orcas and other cetaceans.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ruiz-1	Please stop doing sonar tests that it's hurting wildlife!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rumble-1	<p>In your efforts to train and test readiness of your Sonar system, I ask that you take all proper measures to protect and respect the critical marine resources living in the testing areas.</p> <p>The Northern California coast is a long established migration route of the California Gray Whale. Twice a year the Grays pass through our coastal waters. Coastal events and family outings are determined by the whale migration. They provide a social and economic boon to the Mendocino coast.</p> <p>The Grays' existence, and that of other marine mammals, is protected by our country's Marine Mammal Act as well as the National Environmental Policy Act. The use of high powered SONAR stresses, disorients and leads many whales to leave their calves, in addition to causing others to rapidly alter their diving patterns.</p> <p>Knowing this, why is the US Navy unwilling to modify its SONAR testing program? Why isn't the US NAVY limiting its testing to areas tha will not directly impact the lives of thousands of whales (as well as other marine mammals)? Why can't the Navy respect the routes and timing of the California Gray Whales and not accept collateral kills?</p> <p>I ask that you cease using SONAR in known Gray Whale migration routes and habitation areas. Our current and future national security will not suffer from this testing limit.</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Rush-1	<p>Regarding Noise impact from Jet Fighter Training Flights : The Puget Sound is a densely populated area, interspersed with a few remaining segments of wilderness. To many of us these wild areas are as sacred as any church, or Synagogue. I strongly encourage the Navy to use other lower impact locations for the bulk of Jet Fighter trainings! I am not anti- military, however, the Navy must GIVE AS MUCH CONSIDERATIONS TO THE NEEDS AND WISHES OF THOSE WHO PAY FOR THESE MILITARY OPERATIONS, AS IT GIVES TO YOUR ISSUES OF CONVENIENCE. I know that the Navy has a number of possible locations where training needs can be fulfilled with far less impact on civilian life. It is not acceptable nor appropriate for the Navy to conduct trainings in ANY LOCATION IT WISHES, without taking into account the impact it is having. My request is to USE LOW IMPACT LOCATIONS, not the densely populated Puget sound Area.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Russell-1	<p>I am deeply concerned that the Navy is proposing to do sonar testing in the Salish Sea. The Salish Sea is the home of the critically endangered southern resident orcas. Studies of sonar has shown it to cause the deaths of whales. We can not risk this endangered and beloved species! This must not happen!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rust-1	<p>Please take into consideration the Southern Resident Killer Whales. They are already on the brink of extinction and the noise created by the Navy's testing makes it even more difficult for them to find food. There must be other areas for testing.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Rutherford-1	<p>Coming into a quiet, pristine, sleepy coastal town and blasting it with your munitions makes you the enemy, the aggressors, the bad guys!</p> <p>You're the ones coming to harm us.</p> <p>What mandate says that's ok?</p> <p>And who do we call to protect us from you?</p> <p>We've got delicate ecosystems that developed because we banded together to make sure they were protected, we've got peaceful and good lives here we've built with decades of sane, well-thought-out planning; each decision was carefully weighed.</p> <p>Forget being all you can be. This is your defining moment. And turning your guns on peaceable kingdoms along your own coastline is not it.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Ryan-1	<p>Port Townsend, WA 98368</p> <p>I should be one of your strongest cheerleaders. My dad fought in the South Pacific in WWII, my brother was stationed on a navy base in Asmara, now part of Eritrea. A cousin fought in WWII and Korea. I lived in the area of the Newport Naval base in RI for 50 years. They worked closely with the community service organizations and were a respected partner in the community.</p> <p>I have followed your publications. I have noted with dismay the proposal to upgrade Indian Island, and proposals for expanded military training locally, have been awakened by the house shaking as growlers roared overhead. I volunteer at a foodbank garden, and with a number of military vets, serve vets and others at a local foodbank. The VFW is a shelter for homeless, a number of them are vets.</p> <p>So, my thinking is changing. I do not see the Navy problem solving with us in the community, as I did in Newport. When I hear the growlers, I am unable to sleep thinking of those in the middle east under fire, losing their families, watching their loved ones die for lack of food, water, shelter; increasingly radicalized. When I hear of expanding weapons storage on Indian Island, I remember that 9/11 was the work of mostly Saudi allies, trained at our flight schools, flying our commercial passenger planes into Wall Street and the Pentagon, and wonder why we need more weapons when we already outpace the world. When I hear of advanced training exercises on our shores in civilian communities, I think of the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq following 9/11, and the devastation of their societies and rise of terrorist groups responding in civilian areas around the world.</p> <p>When I see the size of the military budget, I also deal daily with the impacts</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>on lack of food, housing, medical care that we are being told our taxes cannot afford to cover.</p> <p>None of this brings me comfort or security. Rather, as a civilian whose taxes support the military and pay your salaries, I feel betrayed.</p> <p>So, in response to the reports I say no. No support for proposed special operations training worldwide deployment. No support for small-unit land and cold-water maritime training activities in Puget Sound, Hood Canal, or Admiralty Bay. No support for expanding munitions. No support for training in electromagnetic warfare over the Olympic Peninsula.</p> <p>I support the no action alternative. I wish I had written when this was first covered in the news in 2015.</p>	
Ryder-1	<p>The Navy's sonar scanning is causing physical damage, especially hearing loss, for all marine animals. Wildlife doesn't know country borders, so what you're doing also affects wildlife that travels between Canada and the USA. I ask that you either stop these tests altogether or, at the very least, actually pay attention to your surroundings and stop well before it can affect other creatures. We all share this planet together, after all.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Rylott-1	<p>It is absolutely crucial that the Navy stop their sonar testing. Find another way that does not disrupt our aquatic ecosystems. Sonar testing is leading to the impairment of Orcas, who depend on echo location to find food and to communicate with their pod. The Navy is quite literally helping contribute to the devastation and starvation of the orca population in continuing to practice using sonar. Orcas cannot locate food if they cannot hear it using their echo location due to it being disrupted by the Navy's sonar testing. My brother is entering the armed forces, and practices like your use of sonar are what drive me to not recommend joining the Navy, and also sway his decision away from wanting to join as well. If you want to continue receiving public support and recognition, you must stop this practice immediately.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
<b>S</b>		
S A-1	<p>Stop hurting marine life !!!!</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
S M-1	We need to keep our ice and safe. It's an act that will help keep our species alive. We need to save the ocean	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Saalfeld-1	<p>Please consider suspending these activities at least until such time it can be determined the reason for the most recent die-off of massive multiples of the grey whales.</p> <p>Please don't put our US NAVY in the position to be blamed for even more damage to these great mammals!</p> <p>The ocean environment directly off our West coast is undergoing an enormous amount of change right now and it would be unwise to add to that level of stress and very likely be the center of blame for additional die-offs.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration ~</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Saenz-1	You should really stop this nonsense...	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Sagen-1	Our Puget Sound orcas are struggling to survive. There is already too much surface and underwater noise. It overwhelms the orcas own sonar abilities. Without those abilities, they can't locate fish to eat. They are starving. Please don't increase their problems. Decrease rather than increase your testing.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.</p>
Salazar-1	To whom is in charge of these tests, I am against sonar! Please stop hurting other lives. Stop the carelessness. It is unfair, unethical, irresponsible and cruel to hurt marine life. It is your duty to defend & protect. Thank you for your service,	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Salgado-1	The Navy should not be allowed to dump anything into Puget Sound, especially heavy metals. How is this even up for debate? Heavy metals affect all life and can destroy our already fragile ecosystems. Whatever we put into the water comes back to us. Has the navy ever heard of Minimata	<p>The Navy's proposed activities do not include dumping of any materials, including heavy metals. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Disease that occurred in Japan? It is a serious neurological illness caused by dumping heavy metals into local waterways. The Navy should never have the right to ever dispose of anything into Puget Sound.	procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Salver-1	We understand national security and it's importance. But not at the expense of our Marine life, and neuronal treasures, the whales. We won't stand by idly while the massacre of cetaceans continues, causing hearing loss, brain damage, and death.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Salzman-1	"WE PEOPLE...of the Pacific Northwest Coast of the United States request you deny the U.S. Navy a permit to expand its training, increase the use of high level sonar technology, more explosions and more chemical releases along the Pacific northwest coast in the Gray Whales' migration path between the Arctic Circle and Baja Sur California. The Gray Whales would have to pass through a deadly training area ten times in five years. The Navy has asked in its permit application to be allowed to "take" (harass, injure, modify behavior and for certain kill) millions of marine mammals."	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sampson-1	This needs to stop immediately! It's not okay to do something dangerous like this in the home of the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales! Please stop, they deserve better!	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.
Samusick-1	If these sonic tests procede you will be harming and killing hundreds if not thousands of sea creatures. Just kill all life on the planet so you can stop planning and manufacturing wars. Upshot is, you are destroying our only home with your endless "testing" of sonic weapons. You are killing your own children. Fine work.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Samzun-1	I am totally against underwater sonar testing, wich has been proven to cause harm to marine animals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sanchez-1	Stop the testing! It is hurting the marine mammals!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sandlin-1	Please stop using sonar in the ocean!! Protect the marine life!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sands-1	It is unconscionable to frighten and to destroy the lives of the porpoises, orcas and whales that have made Puget Sound and its environs for eons. Stop it! You have no right to make such life altering noise!!!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/marine-species-monitoring">www.navy.mil/marine-species-monitoring</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sanghvi-1	DON'T DO SONAR TESTING. Don't go into someone else's home and destroy their quality of living.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sanguino-1	Is it not considered "Substantive" to just explain to the Navy how the jets flying above my home is causing stress? I purchased my home in 2011. It was not disclosed to me that Jets would fly directly above my home. They did not fly above my home for the first few years. This year, I have seen and heard jets flying directly above my home. When the jets fly above my home, my windows rattle, dogs scramble and cats disappear! Expanding your flight zone above homes that were not in the flight paths previously is causing my home value to decrease and an increase in my	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	PTSD events. Move it, or reduce it.	The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.
Santoro-1	STOP TESTING THATS KNOWINGLY HARMING ANIMALS	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Santos-1	I am completely against sonar testing because it is very harmful to marine wildlife, specially the resident orcas. Please do not perform sonar testing. Thank you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Santosa-1	This program would threaten the livability of the island by significantly increasing the noise, would threaten the economic stability of the island by discouraging tourism, and further threaten our critically endangered wildlife in the Sound. Please consider more modest increases or a	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	distribution of these activities across the region. The citizens of Whidbey, the tourists of Seattle, and the Orcas of the Sound thank you.	Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.
Santowski-1	The Navy's sonar testing is heavily disrupting and possibly killing ocean life. This is especially detrimental to the Orca whale populations that swim through this area. Already these orcas face so many obstacles, such as starvation. The sonar testing can disrupt their already limited feeding and further worsen their condition. At this critical moment, the orcas need support now more than ever. This can be further backed by the fact that these orcas are on the endangered species list, making it even more important that we not only leave them to be in peace because they are a beautiful part of our world, but also because they desperately need our help. These sonar tests are not helping. Please find another option.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sarver-1	I am writing with regard to the Navy proposed action, specifically the increase in the proposed number of Navy Growler flights in the area of the Olympic Peninsula. I request that you modify your plans to ensure that your flights are routed away from populated areas and Olympic National Park, that the proposed number of flights be reduced and that efforts be made to further mitigate the sound impacts on human and animal communities. I am a frequent visitor to Port Townsend and plan to move there in the future. The noise generated by the increased practices of military aircraft threaten to undermine the economic and physical health of the community. Thanks for considering this request. Sincerely, Stephanie L. Sarver	The Navy considered but did not develop mitigation for aircraft overflights, such as shifting transit routes, relocating aircrew training activities, or modifying flight altitudes, because such mitigation would not be practical to implement due to implications for safety and mission requirements. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controls the National Airspace System and routes that overlap the NWTT Study Area. The FAA designed the routes to efficiently manage air traffic in the region and to safely deconflict military traffic from commercial and general aviation aircraft, with consideration given to the presence of Canadian National Airspace and traffic to the north. The FAA is the responsible federal agency for determining transit routes and any changes to such routes must be approved by the FAA. The Navy is currently in discussions with the FAA exploring the possibility of shifting the FAA-established transit routes for military aircraft transiting to and from the Olympic MOA from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to the north of the Olympic Peninsula. The purpose of these discussions is to consider the efficient and safe use of navigable airspace. While ultimately any shift in transit routes is the FAA's decision, it is possible that, if approved, such a shift will have the added benefit of reducing military aircraft noise over the Olympic National Park.  The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.
Satiacum-1	Please stop the Naval activity. When the planes fly by, it scares my little nephew's, and they run inside and cover their ears!! I would hate for the activities to increase.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Saul-1	I have just learned about the EIS/OEIS issued by the Navy on March 29, 2019, that alarms me. I visit the Olympic Peninsula for quiet outdoor pursuits such as hiking, backpacking, birding, botanizing, camping, and nature photography. The only acceptable alternative is No Action. The other two alternatives presented in the EIS/OEIS would create unacceptable impacts on the environment and visitors and residents of the Olympic Peninsula, including Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, the three Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges, Washington Islands Wilderness, Colonel Bob Wilderness, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, state parks, Native American reservations, and several communities. The noise from multiple daily low flying Navy Growler jets over the western and northern parts of the Olympic Peninsula would chase residents and tourists away. This will affect the natural and human health and economy of the Peninsula and the State of Washington. The search pattern of Growler jet flights looking for emitters would roar above ocean beaches, frighten sea birds and marine mammals, and disturb hikers on the wilderness beach of Olympic National Park and the residents of towns like Forks and Amanda Park. I have experienced low-flying military jet aircraft in the Cascades Mountains, Steens Mountain, and the desert Southwest so I know how unsettling and disturbing the noise can be. Under this proposal, Navy Growlers will fly search patterns over the wild Olympic coast for up to 16 hours a day and up to 260 days a year -- 5,000 Growler jet flights a year averages 19 or more flights per day. The Navy admits to 85-200 decibels of noise per pass. That is enough to cause hearing loss and contribute to other health problems, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and mental health problems. Residents of Forks have recorded 94 decibels of noise under current operations. While noise is known to affect humans, no studies have been done of the impacts	The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.  The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.  The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.  The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>of that noise on nesting sea birds, sea otters, Olympic elk, migrating shore birds, and other birds following the coastline of the Pacific Flyway. This degradation of the Olympic Peninsula's environment is unacceptable. For 112 years, Congresses and Presidents have set aside areas of the Peninsula under protective designations. Irreparable damage would be caused if the Navy is allowed to proceed with its proposed activities. Incidental take of threatened and endangered species and migratory birds, particularly seabirds, already threatened and in population decline due to climate change, is unacceptable. Tufted puffins, common murre, rhinoceros auklets and other sea birds that nest on offshore islands would be frightened off their nests, exposing the eggs to predation, breakage and loss. Given the number of flights anticipated, nesting success could be zero for these sensitive species.</p> <p>Marine mammals use the offshore islands for haul out and resting. They too would be frightened into the water, disturbing their rest and causing them to burn energy reserves, decreasing survival.</p> <p>Please stop this plan. Wild places on the Olympic Peninsula are not empty places waiting for military exploitation. They are environmentally sensitive areas. Other locations for this training should be fully evaluated.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>	
Sause-1	<p>Notwithstanding the Navy's stated efforts to minimize the harm caused to marine mammals by the use of sonar and explosives in marine environments to detect the presence of submarines, there is overwhelming evidence that mammal stranding events in the areas in which testing takes place, occurring immediately after testing, are linked to the use of sonar. Necropsies conducted have shown hemorrhaging in their inner ears and around their brains that indicate acoustic or impulse injuries which likely triggered the strandings.</p> <p>Even when use of sonar does not lead to death in mammals, their hearing can be damaged for periods of time, and also permanently. According to the Navy's own calculations, porpoises swimming in inland Washington waters could experience temporary hearing loss from sonar at least 95,943 times over a period of seven years. Sonar could cause them permanent hearing loss 1,033 times over that same period of time, and a behavioral reaction ranging from distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound occur 101,377 times, according to that same estimate. According to research biologist John Calambokidis, limited hearing in the frequencies of sound that marine mammals use extensively, will limit their survival.</p> <p>Environmental groups have fought the Navy's and NMFS in court over the</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	use of sonar along US coastal waters. In 2015, after a judge sided with environmentalists, whale habitat in Hawaii and Southern California was declared off-limits to sonar. In 2016, a federal appeals court ruled that the Navy should not have been allowed to use low-frequency, long-range sonar in some locations, having failed to give adequate protections to areas of the world's oceans its own experts had flagged as biologically important. The reasoning that resulted in the protection of whales in Southern California and Hawaii applies to all our coastal waters. Why are Northwest's marine mammals, their species survival already endangered, left unprotected?	
Savage J-1	I want to be on the record against this. I was a journalist during the time that PG&E (the utility) was using sonic to determine earthquake hazards around nuclear power plants. I studied a lot of data - knowing more about earthquake potential = good. But the sonic method = bad. Scientific and public efforts finally shut down the process. Don't start up again. Sea life has enough problems without you stressing it ever more.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Savage R-1	Our household is against adding more jets and flight paths above Washington State. Please consider the studies being done about effects of Naval Sonar and it's negative impacts on the environment. Our island eco system cannot support more resident pilots and their families.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Sawyer E-1	The Navy cannot be allowed to dump toxic heavy metals into any coastal waters, to include the already over-polluted Puget Sound. The amount of stress our Salish Sea ecosystem is under as it is already has proven too much. To add such toxins as uranium or cobalt or whatever else the US Navy has conjured up is to add fuel to the fire. The Navy already kills hundreds of echolocating marine mammals every year with its sonar blast weapons testing, and now they add insult to injury by asking to dump heavy metals into the very place these creatures call home. Why don't we just pour gasoline all over ourselves and jump in the caldera of Mount St Helens if that is how we are going to aid our dying oceans? It would be a better use of time and money. If the Navy didn't have a good way of	The Navy's proposed activities do not include dumping of any materials, including heavy metals. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	disposing these byproducts in the first place, why were they using such a process that made them at all? This is a national disgrace. Do better.	
Sawyer H-1	Navy sonar testing in the Salish Sea absolutely cannot happen. This testing will impact the marine life (whales, dolphins, seals, and walruses) in a myriad of devastating ways, and subsequently, all the life that depends on the marine mammals to survive. This will impact all marine ecosystems, coastal ecosystems, and eventually terrestrial ecosystems...Which includes humans! The underwater sounds will interfere with marine mammals' echolocation and impacts their ability to communicate, mate, travel, feed/hunt, and be social. The loss of communication can separate members of a pod and calves from their mothers causing stress. The frequency of the sonar testing can also cause physical damage to marine life by disrupting their hearing causing them to wash up on shore and become beached. In 2005, 34 whales died off the coast of North Carolina due to navy sonar training. We CANNOT allow this to continue, not in our Salish Seas; not to our whales. Not in any seas; not to any whales. Navy sonar testing is not worth the lives in our oceans.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWT Final EIS/OEIS, and the "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)" (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>).</p>
Scammell-1	The Navy needs to refrain from any more sonic testing, especially these crazy futuristic ones they are proposing. It's time to start thinking about our animals instead of crazy weapons.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Scarborough-1	A sense of place is key to our constitutionally-guaranteed right to the pursuit of happiness, and the Olympic Peninsula is the focal point in this regard not only for me, but for many thousands, if not millions, of residents in this region. We take personally any threats to the Olympic ecosystem, our literal or figurative home and also a place of great international significance. The proposed action on the part of the Navy is as acute of a threat to the long-term integrity of the Olympic Peninsula as anything in living memory. What's more, it calls into question whom our nation's military is serving and protecting, because it certainly doesn't appear to be the established, taxpaying residents of Washington state.	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.</p> <p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>No Action is the only acceptable alternative for the Northwest Training and Testing proposal. Growler warfare training as proposed would fly search patterns over the irreplaceable rain forest valleys and coast of the Olympic wilderness for most days of the year and most hours of the day, with noise impacts causing incalculable damage to natural systems, residents' wellbeing en route, and the regional economy. Perversely, this would occur in an area documented to currently be among the quietest places remaining in an increasingly (and intolerably) noisy world. It is directly contradictory to over a century's worth of conservation work on the Olympic Peninsula, beginning with the Theodore Roosevelt administration. The draft supplemental EIS/OEIS falls woefully short on analysis of cumulative impacts, as they pertain to the juxtaposition of the proposed action, previous actions in this context, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. It is remarkable that the Navy would contemplate such a dramatic escalation of warfare training, with its resulting noise (and visual) impacts, in an area featuring not only a highly intact and sensitive ecosystem, but a high concentration of human communities fully dependent upon the same. What branch of the U.S. government would pursue such inevitable degradation of a tenuously functioning region within our own national boundaries? Apparently, and regrettably, this would be the Navy, but there is still time to correct course by selecting the No Action alternative.</p>	<p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol>
Schanfald-1	<p>These training exercises need to stop proceeding at every hour of the day and night.</p> <p>It is one thing to experience them in the afternoon, but 11 PM, 1 AM, 3 AM, etc., this is a health issue beyond the planes are emissions. You should not be waking babies, ill people, senior citizens, school aged children, anyone at these hours. Stop them!</p> <p>The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. There is no evaluation for other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas could be must be avoided. It has seriously disrupted the public while they are in public parks. You have places in other states already set up for this training where the least disturbance occurs. That is where training she be held.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Schaub-1	I am in complete opposition of naval sonar.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Schaul-1	Don't allow this practice to happen. We need to protect our sea mammals before they die or become extinct!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Scheier-1	I recognize that the Navy and military families have a long history within the PNW region. I am from a military background. My father was a WWII glider pilot. I respect the men and women who serve this country. The length of time the Navy has been situated in this region Does not give it greater community authority. To state this history as a reason the Navy can do whatever it wants is a bit like saying my next door neighbor can set up a punk-rock theater in their back yard because they have lived here longer than me.  The much louder growlers are highly disturbing to me. Being woken up in the night repeatedly is hazardous to my health. Time spent in the forest, Olympic National Park, and on the Sea has been rattled, harassed, and spiritually disturbed by the Navy jets.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Scherba-1	Stop the sonar testing!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Scheuermann -1	As the wife of an audiologist this is reprehensible. And as an animal lover beyond evil.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Schiavo-1	I would like to keep our coastline and waterways pristine, for tourism, fishing, the environment and for the locals.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Schiffman-1	I hereby submit my request that you not dump depleted uranium, explosives, or heavy metals into the Pacific Ocean (or any ocean). Such actions are in contravention to good stewardship of the oceans. Please withdraw this dangerous plan.	The Navy's proposed activities do not include dumping of any materials, including depleted uranium, explosives, and heavy metals. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Thank you.	goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Schindler-1	<p>No Action Alternative Is my choice after long and careful thought and analysis.</p> <p>This choice is made because the current training area includes the Olympic National Park, a World Heritage Site. The Park is designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as having special cultural or physical significance. There are 23 sites in the United States but only 10 are west of the Mississippi River. Olympic National Park is the only site in the States of Oregon, Idaho and Washington.</p> <p>In addition, the training area includes the Olympic Marine Sanctuary, where the marine environment is supposed to enjoy special protection. There are only 14 such Sanctuaries in the entire United States including Hawaii and Alaska.</p> <p>Yes, training is essential and without military protection the Park and Sanctuary might not be able to exist. But the choice by the Navy to use one of the rare temperate rainforests in the world as a training area is baffling. The chance of a war in a temperate rainforest is unlikely.</p> <p>The military should choose a trading site that does not include a World Heritage Site National Park and the Olympic Marine Sanctuary. Thank you.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Schirmann-1	<p>Please take your war training out of the paths of the beloved whales. Please have common good sense about how the massive sonar, huge explosions, and harmful chemicals affect the oceans!</p> <p>Have care for the life on Mother Earth and her mysteries and powers! I say definitely No to the abuse of defense powers that harm the whales and waters!</p> <p>Oh, with care, how this jewel planet earth would have peace and wondrous solutions for life here.</p> <p>Where's the respect and responsibility for mother nature?! Especially in these regions (N. California), with many fault lines into the ocean.</p> <p>And about the pervasive, bitzy pieces of plastic in ocean waters...Now there is a challenge worth the time and effort, and the Navy could show some organization there, and move up in history and herstory. Great good will come from her!</p> <p>Let's get out of the war-mentality and live with care-full solutions!</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Let's show some Devotion for Mother Earth Oceans let's clean up the messes and the mega stresses that industry inflicts on us all	
Schmidt L-1	You must stop destroying this homes and habitat of all ocean beings. You must just stop test explosives in the ocean. Senseless slaughter of whales and dolphins and all other life in the ocean. You destroy all our homes by doing this unacceptable testing in the ocean.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Schmidt S-1	<p>I will address two specific areas of concern.</p> <p>1. Marine Mammals, specifically Southern Resident Killer Whales</p> <p>In section 3.4.3.1, in considering combined impacts of all stressors under Alternative 1, the EIS states: "Although potential impacts on certain marine mammal species from military readiness activities under Alternative 1 may include injury to individuals, those injuries are not expected to lead to long-term consequences for populations." At the same time, the EIS acknowledges that "Navy training and testing activities may overlap designated critical habitat, as defined by the ESA, for the Eastern North Pacific Southern Resident killer whale."</p> <p>What I don't see acknowledged is the extreme vulnerability of this declining population of Southern Resident orcas. In the case of this sensitive and long-lived species, the loss of even ONE INDIVIDUAL, particularly a breeding female, could have a significant POPULATION impact on this endangered species.</p> <p>According to the EIS (p. 3.4-406) "the use of sonar and other transducers, explosives, and vessels...as described under the Preferred alternative ... may result in Level A harassment and Level B harassment of certain marine mammals."</p> <p>Based upon this information in the EIS, I suggest that there must be a ban on "sonar and other transducers, explosives, and vessels" at all times that the Southern Residents are in the Salish Sea (the waters is anywhere east of Cape Flattery). The same concerns apply along the shores of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and northern California where the Southern Resident Killer Whales also spend much of their time foraging.</p> <p>There are many conditions of weather and lighting under which it is impossible for trained observers to detect the presence of marine mammals. Additionally, the effects of sonar and explosives carry much farther through the water than observers can see. So committing to</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	stopping these activities when observers spot marine mammals of concern is completely insufficient.	
Schmidt S-2	<p>2. The proposed extension of the permit to perform warfare training over Olympic National Forest/Park.</p> <p>As a resident of central Whidbey Island who lives close to NAS Whidbey's Outlying Field, I have documented the excessive noise levels of the Growler aircraft. I recognize that this EIS is not the place to specifically address that concern, but it gives me a visceral understanding of how destructive Growler overflights are to peace, health and outdoor enjoyment. Using the airspace over Olympic National Forest, which immediately adjoins and impacts the National Park, is contrary to the intent of the National Park. The increasingly numerous flights of Growler aircraft over the Olympic Peninsula, San Juan Islands and Whidbey Island is destructive to our economy, our tourism, our health and our children's well-being. I know that the estimates of noise pollution and noise effects given in the EIS for the expansion of the Growler fleet at NAS Whidbey were utterly inadequate and did not accurately represent the noise levels experienced by those under the jets. While I have not been able to review all of this EIS, I suspect that the true impact of the body-shattering noise of these aircraft has not been recognized in this EIS either. Having lived in our home for 20 years, about 15 of them under Prowler touch-and-go flights, I can attest to the profound difference we have experienced with the onset of the Growler aircraft. I can feel the vibrations in my internal organs, regardless of wearing ear protection. The noise of the Prowlers was annoying and stopped conversation. The noise of the Growler is shattering and sends us fleeing indoors.</p> <p>The Olympics are a unique treasure. I oppose all military practices in the airspace over the Olympic Peninsula.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.</p> <p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol>
Schneider-1	I represent a tour operator based in Seattle, WA that spends considerable amounts of time with travelers from around the planet during visits to Olympic National Park. In the Northwest, Olympic National Park (a UNESCO site) represents what is best-saved from a previous era and protects what will likely be extremely important as we head into more-complex times. We have long since given up running trips to another special place - Deception	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Pass State Park - due to the insane levels of noise produced by 'growler' flights.</p> <p>It's no secret that Americans and world travelers alike consider the American National Park system one of the U.S.'s best ideas. Having traveled to a majority of the major Parks in the system, I can tell you that Olympic National Park is one of the finest in the system due to its contiguous, road-less core which offers a true wilderness and real silence (something exceedingly rare in our lifetime - how could any place get more quiet, rather than more noise-filled, today?). Additionally, Olympic National Park represents intact ecosystems representative of wild Northwestern places that have otherwise been heavily assaulted during recent human history (natural resource extraction, fragmented ownership, urban development, etc).</p> <p>Growler flights near or over Olympic National Park aren't good for anyone aside from the armed forces. Olympic National Park and it's wild denizens don't win, millions of travelers don't win, business owners on the Peninsula don't win. We're a small company that tries to protect what we love about the wild Pacific Northwest - Olympic National Park is a rare, fragile remnant of the world's pristine, largely compromised quiet space. When Navy administrators take a weekend with the family, my guess is they don't go sit on a tarmac and enjoy the sounds of the world's loudest planes taking off - they likely head someplace peaceful. Given our modern political climate, I suspect it's likely that no one ever even reads these community comments and the Navy will just do what it wants to - it's too bad that special interests so frequently override the din of the majority.</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol>
Schnurer-1	<p>And I'm a professor at Humboldt State University. And I'm here to call for the continued moratorium and to oppose this project. And, in particular, I want to name three different reasons why I think that is really important. And the first of which is native sovereignty, that most of the native nations on the north coast have vigorously opposed this action. And I think if we want to imagine consultation, consultation would mean listening with native nations. And so if native nations are going to be just communicated with, then that's not actual consultation. And so, essentially, to my understanding of the nation-to-nation conversations between the United States Navy and native nations would be listening to what they actually say. If they are calling for a continuance of the moratorium, if they are asking for this project to not to continue forward, then, as a non-native person on native land in the north coast, it seems vital to show up as an advocate and</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>to encourage the navy to rethink, maybe pause this project. The second reason that I wanted to oppose is local businesses and industries. I think that we rely on tourism, fishing, crabbing, and the enjoyment of the local ecosystem and nature. And I think testing of both sonar, of military weapons will have dramatic negative impacts on the north coast's tourism. And we really need the support and space for those industries. The third reason that I would oppose this is that I think the environmental impacts are too risky. And I want to say that I think dolphins, whales, porpoises, cetaceans are a complex, higher order species that should get consideration. But, of course, more complexly, I think the intricate connections between ecosystems should be considered using something like the precautionary principal, the possibility of harm. And we have some pretty good studies of the complexities of whale life, of dolphin life. Humpback whales can recognize other humpbacks with years' barrier of time between them just from the vocalization. And sonar tests impede complex dialogue between species that should probably be studied rather than harmed. And I guess as a final coda, what I would urge is that I've known a number of people in the Navy through the years and people at the Naval Academy. And I've always viewed it as a forward-looking creative service in terms of the armed forces and the United States. Most of the Navy folks that I've known have always been very thoughtful and able to think outside the box. And I think public pressure to encourage the Navy to go back to the drawing board, while still honoring the need that they have, is part of our duty on the north coast. And so I would urge the Navy to try to think creatively about the ways to do both force preparedness and also training that don't involve the sorts of testing, sonar bomb that are going to be happening from this proposed project. And so I oppose.</p>	
Schoen K-1	<p>I am writing on behalf of myself and my wife Ellen Athens. We are 100% against the proposed training and testing for the following reasons. Global climate change is having a devastating effect on the North West Pacific. In the past year, nine Grey Whales have died mysteriously in the San Francisco Bay. In the past couple of years a wasting disease has decimated the Sea Star population. This has caused an overpopulation of Sea Urchins, destroying the Kelp forest, and the Abalone resource. The proposed testing will pollute the ocean with thousands of pounds of heavy metals, and severely stress the marine mammal population. Further we feel this testing has nothing to do with national security, and everything to do with weapons company profiteering. The cumulative impact of this testing will stress our ecosystem, and is a misuse of our taxes.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Schoen K-2	I am against any testing off our coast. The sea life here is already suffering from climate change. The sea stars died off, the abalone and erchins are dwindling. Why should anyone trust the Navy to protect our sea life? They are part of the multi-billion dollar defense industry whose main purpose is to support the war profiteers.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Schoen M-1	Please adopt the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE. The national parks are a treasure for our entire country. PLEASE preserve our national parks environment.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Schoeppe-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar blasting/testing of any form in our oceans. This is irresponsible and is causing irreversible damage to our marine animals and marine life. It is your duty to protect us and those that don't have a voice. The animals that are harmed, lose their hearing, affects their natural behaviors or die from not being able to decompress from deep depths. This needs to end now.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Schubert-1	I have spent many years hiking in the Olympic National Park and along the wilderness seashore. I am horrified to even imagine the disruption that flying many fighter jets over this area would cause. Please don't do it.	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.</p> <p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol>
Schuller-1	The proposed warfare training exercises conducted over the Olympic Peninsula violate the intent of the of United States Congressional legislation which established Olympic National Park and the designated wilderness areas found within the geographic range known as the Olympic Peninsula. These areas are set aside for wildlife and for the enjoyment of the citizens the U.S. They are not areas that congress would have approved	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	for Naval training exercises. I believe the U.S. Navy must seek U.S. Congressional Approval, in the form of new legislation, before they can legally relocate the training exercises.	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year. When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol>
Schumacher-1	Please be cognizant of widespread concerns in the rural Pacific Northwest that unbridled Navy growler flyovers, training incursions, and other activities may have severe negative impacts on resident quality of life, tourism, and wildlife. This is not a desolate desert where negative impacts go unnoticed... there are many people and many animals that are potentially affected. The purpose of our Navy is protect these people and things, so part of that protective role is to be careful not to harm what the Navy is meant to protect. Thanks for considering my comment.	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Schwab-1	Having the Navy use our national parks as their personal training grounds is the same as letting the homeless of Seattle use the sidewalks as their toilets. It's rude, it's offensive, it's an absolute violation of everything our national parks stand for. I remember when this started and the Navy claimed they needed to train "here" because the Olympic Peninsula is just	Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	like the North Korean peninsula? Really? In what way? and please be specific because anyone with a fourth grade education could tell you the ONLY thing they have in common are that they are both peninsula's .... that's it! The Navy does not "need" to train here, they "want" to train here. It's lush green and beautiful with snow capped mountains, rivers, lakes, oceans .... everything they don't have at China Lake California. They don't like training or living there so they come up here with some BS story about how they cannot train anywhere else, they "need" the peninsula. Well guess what US Navy, the peninsula is already spoken for and you need to pack up your gear and go back where you came from. Sorry if California sucks as a place to live and train but using the Olympic National Park as your personal Growler toilet is unacceptable.	1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.  The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Schwabe-1	I just learned of the EIS NW training proposal and i am very concerned by it. The only EIS alternative that is acceptable is the No Action Alternative. The other options given are unacceptable to the environment and life on the Olympic Peninsula. Alternatives 1 and 2 would cause deplorable damage to Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Alternative 2 is the most extreme and even more unacceptable.  I enjoy the Olympic Peninsula as a vacation area, as do many people in the Pacific Northwest. This would be hugely disruptive to the environment, tourism industry, and inhabitants of this area. It's a beautiful area and needs to be protected, and allowing this type of action to occur here is unacceptable.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/SpeciesMonitoring">www.navy.mil/SpeciesMonitoring</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTTEIS.com">www.NWTTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Schwalt-1	I have lived on the beautiful west coast my whole life. I have viewed the Marine life here as precious beings we desperately need to take care. The science to back this information is astonishing. The ecosystem needs to stay in balance or devastation will occur. I am 100% against the Navy doing testing that blatantly harms the sea life balance. The Navy should never test close to the shoreline that should be illegal action. The Navy should come up with safe alternatives and be more into environmental studies than weapons use. Taking care of this "human damaged" planet is our immediate concern not the threat of war.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Schwartz-1	I oppose the naval exercises. Trump says not needed in South Korea then why are the needed here? Also Trump said these exercises are too expensive. I do not want the Navy spending my money to destroy marine life.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Scott M-1	The Navy must protect the great sea mammals and ocean wildlife as a matter of moral duty to do what is right and honorable. Americans DO NOT want our military services to be responsible for being part of the atrocity that helps to destroy our ocean and the life therein. Find some other way!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Scott P-1	We are losing so many species on this earth at an increasing rate. We need to stop immediately all practices and procedures that may be harmful to whales and other ocean wildlife. The evidence of harm is there, and it is our responsibility to care for this earth. Do no harm.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Scott T-1	The format of the meeting itself does not allow a discussion to happen in a meaningful way in the way that humans have for thousands of years come together to discuss. This way of meeting is fractured. It creates a fractured and disempowered style of commentary where nothing can actually be achieved. There's no dialogue here. Jene McCovey, the Yurok elder, spoke and wished a gathering because a gathering is the only way that there can actually be a fruitful discussion. When we began to circle around with Jene to discuss, the Navy representatives stayed back and gave some protocol of: This is how it is. And unfortunately, the meeting has no power, yeah, to address the real issue. And the real issue is that this is a waste of	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	petroleum, mass waste of petroleum. The U.S. defense budget is \$700 billion. I was told that the U.S. is having to defend itself. Well, -- against two other super powers which are China and Russia. China has a defense budget of 200 billion. And Russia has a defense budget of 60 billion. So the money spent on the U.S. Navy is, frankly, an illness of this country, part of the illness of the United States as a country. It's really crazy. Anyway, thank you so much for taking that.	members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Scranton-1	Olympic National Park is one of the quietest places on Earth or at least was before growlers started practicing over the park on a daily basis. Olympic National Park should not be the site for navy training flights. This is unacceptable.	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Scriver-1	I have lived on Lopez island in the San Juan islands for over 40 years, sense I was a small child. i have raised two young men and I call Lopez my home! I am GREATLY saddened by the extreme increase in Navy Jet noise, particularly the awful Growlers! we are so blessed to live in such a beautiful and once wild area, but sadly i have seen in my short life here a HUGE decline in all sea life, it is horrifying!, I am also shocked almost daily at the rattling thunder of jets that seem to never stop! I feel like i am in a war zone! and i am deeply saddened to think about all the species that are already struggling with climate change, loss of habitat, and now the continual sound of war! this is not right! we need to all wake up and get our priorities straight before we are totally out of time! this is a urgent situation, and the Navy needs to be held accountable!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Seale-1	I question any need to test weaponry in the last barely safe waters for marine mammals. With all the stresses documented on orcas, whales, & others, this permission to proceed should be denied. To temporarily or permanently deafen those who depend on natural sonar communications	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	to live is inexcusable. Like the growler planes that destroy the few moments of quiet we can still find in the Olympic Peninsula, please please rethink this. I don't want to become a kayak protester should you fail to understand the errors of the choice to test sonar in our Salish Sea.	to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Searles-1	<p>We have known for a long time that naval sonar has devastating effects on marine life but just exactly how it leads to sickness and death was a mystery till now. In new research published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, they discovered that the sound emitted by sonar is so intense that marine mammals will swim hundreds of miles, dive deep into the abyss or even beach themselves to flee from the sounds that are literally unbearable to them.</p> <p>In particular, beaked whales are one of the marine mammals that are often found beached due to sonar testing. Prior to the 1960s, beaked whale strandings were extremely rare. But once the 60s rolled around, the Navy started to use mid-frequency active sonar (MFAS) to detect submarines. And from the 60s onwards, whales washing up on beachings became a very common occurrence. The paper recently published is a summary of what was discussed at a 2017 meeting of beaked whale experts in the Canary Islands and revealed that sonar distresses beaked whales so much that the marine mammals ends up with nitrogen bubbles in their blood very similar to what divers would call decompression sickness or the bends. The nitrogen can cause hemorrhaging and damage to whales vital organs. The big question that was brought up was how an animal that lives in the ocean and is adapted to perform deep water dives for hours at a time can obtain decompression sickness? Well simply, the sonar is so powerful, the animals dive deep too quickly causing the sickness.</p> <p>"In the presence of sonar they are stressed and swim vigorously away from the sound source, changing their diving pattern," lead author Yara Bernaldo de Quiros told AFP.</p> <p>"The stress response, in other words, overrides the diving response, which makes the animals accumulate nitrogen. It's like an adrenalin shot."</p> <p>The conclusions are drawn from autopsies of dead whales, although a handful of animals were killed by other threats inflicted by humans, such as collisions with ships or entanglement in fishing nets, as well as disease.</p> <p>The authors note that to mitigate the impacts of sonar on beaked whales, we must ban its use in areas where they're found. A moratorium on the use of MFAS around the Canary Islands in 2004 shows just how well this works – no atypical strandings have been seen since. The researchers urge other</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWT Final EIS/OEIS, and the "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)" (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>).</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	countries where sonar is deployed, such as the US, Greece, Italy, and Japan, to follow suit.	
Secord-1	<p>Please cease the sonar testing that is so very hurtful on the whales and dolphins. They communicate with one another through sounds and your sonar testing is damaging their hearing. You threaten their survival if they cannot hear each other!</p> <p>Please find another way, something, to alleviate the damage your sonar testing is doing to these innocent and vital marine mammals.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Secord-2	<p>I ask that the navy stop sonar testing in waters known to be waters where whales are active. It messes up their ability to communicate with each other. In all of that ocean, I'm sure you can find somewhere else to do your testing other than whale feeding grounds and/or mating grounds, Thank you</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Segura-1	<p>All I have to say is this.... If your job is to protect our waters, please protect what lives within them as well. Thank you!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Seidel-1	Please please stop sonar testing and respect that past ways are no longer acceptable and we need to cherish and protect our waters, the mammals have it hard enough with humans being they're worst enemy please stop the testing!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Seinen-1	<p>/Users/margrietseinen/Desktop/Military Sonar kills marine animals.pdfDoes Military Sonar Kill Marine Wildlife?</p> <p>The frequency used in military testing could be harmful to some animals</p> <p>Share on FacebookShare on TwitterShare on RedditShare on LinkedInShare viaPrint</p> <p>Taken from scientific american</p> <p>Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that military sonar exercises actually kill marine wildlife?</p> <p>-- John Slocum, Newport, RI</p> <p>Unfortunately for many whales, dolphins and other marine life, the use of underwater sonar (short for sound navigation and ranging) can lead to injury and even death. Sonar systems—first developed by the U.S. Navy to detect enemy submarines—generate slow-rolling sound waves topping out at around 235 decibels; the world's loudest rock bands top out at only 130. These sound waves can travel for hundreds of miles under water, and can retain an intensity of 140 decibels as far as 300 miles from their source. These rolling walls of noise are no doubt too much for some marine wildlife. While little is known about any direct physiological effects of sonar waves on marine species, evidence shows that whales will swim hundreds of miles, rapidly change their depth (sometime leading to bleeding from the eyes and ears), and even beach themselves to get away from the sounds of sonar.</p> <p>In January 2005, 34 whales of three different species became stranded and died along North Carolina's Outer Banks during nearby offshore Navy sonar training. Other sad examples around the coast of the U.S. and elsewhere abound, notably in recent years with more sonar testing going on than ever before. According to the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which has campaigned vigorously to ban use of the technology in waters rich in marine wildlife, recent cases of whale strandings likely</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWT Final EIS/OEIS, and the "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)" (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>).</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>represent a small fraction of sonar's toll, given that severely injured animals rarely make it to shore.</p> <p>In 2003, NRDC spearheaded a successful lawsuit against the Navy to restrict the use of low-frequency sonar off the coast of California. Two years later a coalition of green groups led by NRDC and including the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the League for Coastal Protection, Cetacean Society International, and Ocean Futures Society upped the ante, asking the federal courts to also restrict testing of more intense, harmful and far ranging mid-frequency types of sonar off Southern California's coastline. In filing their brief, the groups cited Navy documents which estimated that such testing would kill some 170,000 marine mammals and cause permanent injury to more than 500 whales, not to mention temporary deafness for at least 8,000 others. Coalition lawyers argued that the Navy's testing was in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Two lower courts upheld NRDC's claims, but the Supreme Court ruled that the Navy should be allowed to continue the use of some mid-frequency sonar testing for the sake of national security. "The decision places marine mammals at greater risk of serious and needless harm," says NRDC's Joel Reynolds.</p> <p>Environmental groups are still fighting the battle against the sonar, lobbying the government to curtail testing, at least during peacetime, or to at least ramp up testing gradually to give marine wildlife a better chance to flee affected areas. "The U.S. Navy could use a number of proven methods to avoid harming whales when testing mid-frequency sonar," reports IFAW's Fred O'Regan. "Protecting whales and preserving national security are not mutually exclusive."</p> <p>CONTACTS: NRDC, <a href="http://www.nrdc.org">www.nrdc.org</a>; IFAW, <a href="http://www.ifaw.org">www.ifaw.org</a>.</p> <p>EarthTalk is produced by E/The Environmental Magazine. SEND YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS TO: EarthTalk, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; <a href="mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com">earthtalk@emagazine.com</a>. Read past columns at: <a href="http://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php">www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php</a>. EarthTalk is now a book! Details and order information at: <a href="http://www.emagazine.com/earthtalkbook">www.emagazine.com/earthtalkbook</a>.</p>	
Seiter-1	<p>Comments have been solicited by the United States Navy on the expansion of Northwest Training and Testing associated with Navy operations on or near the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. I recognize that military readiness is an essential component of the American defense strategy, and that the Puget Sound region has long held critical geographic importance for defense. However, the use of the Olympic Peninsula as an intensive</p>	<p>The duration of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS is for the foreseeable future. The analysis would remain valid unless the Navy makes substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns, or there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. The Marine Mammal Protection Act permits would be in place for seven years.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>training ground for weapons and military training on an indefinite basis is unnecessary and creates ongoing harm to the unique wildlife species and human communities that reside here. The proposed training and testing activities are in direct conflict with the stewardship mission of the Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest to protect and manage natural resources for the benefit of future generations. Both the Department of Defense and the Departments of Interior/Agriculture have important missions; but it is not necessary nor advisable for intensive military training activities to take precedence on the Olympic Peninsula. The Olympic National Park and associated wilderness areas are unable to relocate to fulfill their mission. In short – this is the wrong place for the military activities described in the draft EIS.</p> <p>As a resident of the Olympic Peninsula I would like to offer the following comments.</p> <p>1. The timeframe offered for the ongoing environmental impacts associated with these operations is defined as, “Beyond 2020.” Impacts of this magnitude need to be limited temporally as well as geographically, with interim reviews to assess impacts and adjust actions.</p>	
Seiter-2	<p>2. The Navy repeatedly states in the Draft EIS that cumulative impacts to critical species of marine mammals, birds, and other wildlife will be negligible in comparison to impacts that have already occurred from human activities. This conclusion is illogical – rather it would make more sense to conclude that threatened and endangered species and critical habitats cannot endure additional damage and encroachment.</p>	<p>The purpose of the Navy's analysis of cumulative impacts is to determine what cumulative effects the Navy's proposed activities would have on the environment; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS are correct.</p>
Seiter-3	<p>3. I have been a resident of the Olympic Peninsula for over 30 years, and the increased noise from military jets has become more frequent and more apparent. Sound levels frequently result in the need to raise our voices to converse, or wait until jet noise dissipates. I have observed native bird species seek cover during these episodes. The long term, cumulative impact of the additional noise level and the frequency of noise episodes is insufficiently addressed in the Navy's analysis.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to these comments. I hope the Navy will engage in long term planning to identify suitable locations for military training with less impact to critical species, and away from a location that was specifically designated for stewardship and the appreciation of the quietude of the natural world.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.</p> <p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</p> <p>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</p> <p>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</p> <p>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</p>
Self-1	<p>Please stop what you are doing. It's stressing out the whales and sealife. We here in Wa state. Are trying to protect the whales. Get them food. They are dying because of no food. Then they eat the plastic and are found washed up on the floor. We are trying to get the dams open here to get food to them. My lummi tribe in Bellingham are helping in their way to. To get them food. I got adoption papers for a j pod whale from Friday harbor. I watched where that whale traveled through the years. I love the whales. There was a sperm whale that washed up today. All the animals are dying. Hunters kill them. So I'm asking you to stop the tests. It's already stressing them out. And they can die. Why not pick up trash in the lakes and oceans instead of this. That would help the whales. Instead of stressing them out and maybe killing them from the noise. Thank you for your time.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Sen K-1	<p>Respected authorities we all know how important it's now a days to save marine life specially when climate change is in its peak please don't do that to those innocent creatures by disturbing their communicating network we all know how it's works so please for the of sake of our future don't do that to us.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Sen Z-1	<p>Hello, I am writing a comment because I am concerned for marine mammals that get affected by navy sonar work. I don't want there to be navy sonar done in the ocean when it negatively affects marine creatures, but I feel like a more feasible solution would be to research equipment that would work for this operation but not emit noise that would disturb</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	wildlife. Please research a better alternative! Many people value the lives of marine mammals than military work.	Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Septian-1	Saya menentang pengujian sonar!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Serinus-1	I am astounded at all your requirements to even consider a statement from a citizen about your proposals. The very premise—that you will refine your proposals rather than abandon them—tells the citizens that your supposedly pledged to support that their comments are, for the most part, worthless. As is par for the course, your Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS will negatively impact wildlife and humans' quality of life on the Olympic Peninsula. It's as simple as that.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Serrano-1	Protect wildlife and find alternative ways to conduct human business without continuing to hurt wildlife and the balance of nature.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Servoss-1	The Navy's sonar is truly hurting sea life. Orcas can't handle your "testing" and it's unconscionable that you guys KNOW it's a problem yet continue to use it in this way. Protect what you love. Protect our oceans. Protect who lives in them. Stop using sonar training/testing NOW.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Severn-1	Please stop! Don't risk the hearing and in turn, the lives of orcas and other marine mammals to run a few tests...	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Severson-1	I am 100 % opposed to underwater sonar testing by the US navy that has been proven to damage hearing of marine animals	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Seward-1	Re: Navy's Proposed Five Year Extension Permit To Perform Warfare Training Over Olympic National Forest and Park. I'm writing to express my opposition to a five-year extension of the permit to allow warfare training over the Olympic National Forest and Park. The Navy's Environmental Impact Statement does not state any legitimate reason that the training cannot occur in an area designated for warfare training. The Olympic National Park is not a warfare training ground and is not an appropriate place for the Navy with its FA-18 Growler aircraft to be conducting training missions. The Olympic National Forest and Park is an environment of beauty and wonder, a place for people and wild life to enjoy; it is a refuge for people who seek the peace and renewal this Park offers, not the incessant noise of Growler aircraft flying overhead.	Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.  The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Shaffer-1	I am not ok with Navy sonar testing in the Salish sea. If we don't protect the sea life, then who?	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Shafransky-1	<p>I am writing to express my concern over the proposed increase of Growler navy jet flights over the northwest region and specifically over The Hoh Rain Forest - one of the most pristine and quiet places in the lower 48 states. From information provided by the navy it's my understanding that the navy is proposing to add 38 more Growlers to NAS and increase training flights from 6,100 to 24,000 flights per year. This is unacceptable to me as a long time resident of this part of the country.</p> <p>I lived on Whidbey Island for 5 years and have lived in Sedro Woolley for 26 years. I expected to hear jet noise on Whidbey. When I moved to Sedro Woolley there was no discernible plane noise at my house 7 miles outside of the city limits. In the past 3 years, however, the navy jet plane noise has increased tremendously. I have had planes fly so low over my house that I could read the numbers on the body of the plane. When I contacted the navy about this they said the planes aren't supposed to fly below 300 hundred feet and that I should take a picture if I could. Of course there is no way of knowing when the planes are coming over, and I can't be out in my yard waiting with a camera in hand.</p> <p>As an avid hiker I have noticed that the planes are now flying regularly over the wilderness areas in the North Cascade National Park. While I'm not sure if this is illegal, it destroys the reason people go into the wilderness - to seek quiet from daily life. Our northwest country is some of the most beautiful and pristine land in the US. I feel the jet plane noise is turning our communities into stressful environments that we are not able to control or escape.</p> <p>There needs to be some kind of common sense and compromise when it comes to noise pollution. The Navy used to be a good neighbor. That is not the case now.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration in this most important matter.</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Sedro Woolley or on the eastern side of Puget Sound. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a></p>
Shanks-1	<p>I am writing in response to the United States Navy's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for train and research, development, testing and evaluation activities conducted within the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) study area.</p> <p>This study includes areas off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, northern</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>California, Western Behm Canal, Alaska and inland waters of Washington State. This is the very habitat traveled by resident orca pods. This Southern Resident orca is classified as endangered in Canada and is listed as endangered by the United States as required by the Endangered Species Act of 2005. This population of orcas has dropped to less than 75, the lowest number in 30 years.</p> <p>Navy plans include testing and research of high frequency explosive weapons and munitions, high explosive underwater detonations, high-energy lasers, vessels, underwater vehicles and aircraft, and increased use of Growlers.</p> <p>This year the Southern Resident Orca Task Force identified disturbances from noise and vessel traffic as one of three major threats to our orca population. The report notes, "Vessels transiting near Southern Resident orcas can produce underwater noise that masks or impairs orca communication and echolocation (the method orcas use to find their prey). This makes it harder for orcas to find food and reduces the time orcas devote to foraging by almost 20 percent, reducing their potential prey intake and increasing their energy expenditure."</p> <p>The Navy's proposal comes at time when the people of Washington are imploring their elected officials and the Governor to protect our endangered orcas and our marine environment. The Navy training and research plan is the antithesis of everything our state supports. We are trying to keep boats away from our marine mammals. In fact legislation passed this year finds a person guilty of a crime if the person causes a vessel or other object gets too close to an orca or exceeds speeds greater than 7 knots over ground. We prohibit commercial whale watching operations from approaching or intercepting within the direction of whales. This year Washington State is investing \$1.1 billion to help ensure a thriving and resilient orca population, our ecosystem and improve water quality. In the meantime, the United States Navy plans to use my tax dollars to create a Fallujah in my community, causing irreparable damage to our marine mammals and environment.</p> <p>The United States Navy should not conduct training and testing activities in these waters.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	<p>the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Shannon-1	<p>In August of 2016, we found our perfect family and retirement home on Whidbey Island, Washington. I had a list of 6 homes and by the time we saw number 4, I knew this was meant to be our home in Admirals Cove. You see my husband and I both teach college biology. Our home at 1235</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island or OLF Coupeville. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Farragut, Coupeville, Wa has a view of the Puget sound, the Olympic mountains and a small stream that is part of the Camano/Whidbey trust wildlife preserve. We have a 7 year old daughter who loves observing the numerous birds (from bald eagles to kingfishers), beavers, otters, deer and raccoon from our living room window. It all seemed perfect until the first jet flights to the OLF (outlying field). Of course, the realtor was required to tell us of these jet flights before we bought the house. However, as my husband said, "they can't be louder than is safe for humans, right?" When my husband asked this to our 85 year old neighbor, our neighbor just laughed and said let's just say if you have company over that night you won't be talking much. Our neighbor was right! These same neighbors put in air conditioning and watch TV with earphones on when the jets are flying. The Navy posts a schedule but the Thursday before the week of flights. (Hard to plan social events.)</p> <p>It is not just that the navy does not follow neighborhood noise ordinances that the rest of us must follow. They also fly too low and with each pass they get lower over our homes. It is an accident waiting to happen. My 7 year old is afraid to go to sleep when the jets are flying. They fly the lowest late at night. Normally night flights begin around 9 or 10pm and they do not end until midnight! Since they fly lowest at night it is hard to get photos and video of how low it is, but we can see the pilot in the plane from our living room window. It is that low! We time when our dogs go potty according to the flight schedule because we don't want to damage their ears either. But as I said there are numerous species of wildlife in our area and domesticated animals that cannot be brought inside. We do not have air conditioning. We get a wonderful sea breeze that naturally cools our home but when we hear the jets coming we run around and close all windows and doors until they leave. They are so low that I am afraid our pictures on the walls will shake off and break.</p> <p>I don't mind jets going over if they keep a safe distance above the homes. But who monitors this? Who sets what is safe for the distance above homes and noise levels? Who makes sure the pilots follow what is safe?</p> <p>I was diagnosed with breast cancer on May 23, 2018. I just had my 5th surgery last week. In fall 2018 I endured 4 cycles of chemotherapy and 6 months of immunotherapy. My first thought when I was diagnosed with a cancer that grew very fast in a 6 month period was the water quality at our home in Coupeville and the navy pollution of the ground water at the OLF. Please do not increase the number of jet flights! If anything, the number of flights should be reduced and the distance above homes in admiral's cove</p>	<p>to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a></p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	increased! They should be flying higher not lower! The EPA should be testing all water in the area of the OLF!	
Shapona-1	Please allow the majestic Beauty of these Whales and other sea life to continue their existence on this Planet without harming them. Humans are not the only ones that share this Earth. Please do not disturb the sea world as an experiment. We Humans are the experiment and warring with each other is the test. I would like to know the many benefits we Humans will receive if this testing occurs? I am so sorry that War is part of the Human Condition. Maybe I am not understanding the real human condition and that the Navy does at the expense of the Majestic Whales and other sea creatures. Thank for letting us share our opinions.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sharkey B-1	I am adamantly against sonar testing and airgun blasting in the PNW. It is damaging to the living beings in these waters, specifically cetaceans that depend on hearing for orientation, feeding, migration, breeding. This practice is inhumane and detrimental to every species, and should be illegal, especially in the presence of endangered species.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.  The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include the use of airguns.
Sharkey D-1	There are direct correlations between blasting and sonar testing and cetacean breachings throughout the world. These activities in the Pacific Northwest would be harmful to the critically endangered Southern Resident Orcas, whose population is already dangerously low. Cetaceans depend on hearing to navigate in every facet of their lives. To knowingly cause damage to their hearing or obstruct their ability to successfully navigate is unconscionable. I am 100% against testing in the PNW.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.  Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, and the "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)” ( <a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a> ).
Sharnoff-1	There absolutely needs to be a 100-mile wide test-free corridor along the entire Pacific coast.	The Navy’s mitigation involves numerous distance-from-shore restrictions for active sonar, explosive, and non-explosive training and testing activities. For example, the Navy will not conduct explosive training or explosive testing (except explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing) 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. For the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy developed several new mitigation measures, including development a new mitigation area known as the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area. It would not be practical for the Navy to prohibit all training or testing activities within 100 miles from shore for the reasons described in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), Chapter 5 (Mitigation), and Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Sharp A-1	Stop killing our whales! please and thank you	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy’s ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy’s Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research’s Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy’s project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sharp L-1	Your aware of what you are doing and being of conscious choice, you are knowingly causing physical, mental and emotional harm to this species. I recommend finding an alternative solution to these tests. In today’s day and age of technological advance there are other alternate methods that you can (create) and or utilise. In every given moment we get the choice to do the ‘right thing- or the	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	wrong thing' Choose wisely!	<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sharp P-1	<p>I am extremely alarmed that the Navy is proceeding to locate and test 36 additional growler airplanes and other expansion to include the doubling of Anti-Submarine Warfare testing and doubling Surface Ship Sonar testing. The growlers presently tested are an environmental nightmare for both humans and wildlife in the area. This kind of expansion should be unthinkable.</p> <p>In a 2017 Seattle Times article, retired Navy Captain Brian Cullin wrote If the Navy proceeds with its projected plans to increase aircraft operations (adding up to 36 new aircraft to the current 82), our "protected" forests, parks and communities will be seriously violated. Property values will plummet, tourism will wane, and we all will be faced with the very long and acrimonious road of trying to reach a solution in the courts or through legislation." I agree wholeheartedly.</p> <p>The Navy's own draft EIS addresses other proposed expansions include the doubling of Anti-Submarine Warfare testing and doubling Surface Ship Sonar testing "the use of sonar and other transducers during testing activities as described under Alternative 1 will result in the unintentional taking of killer whales incidental to those activities...the use of explosives during training activities as described under Alternative 1 may affect ESA-listed killer whales, and may overlap Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat." (In this context, taking could mean temporary or permanent hearing impacts for the whales, as well as physiological stress or behavior problems).</p> <p>We are facing a crisis here with our threatened orca whale resident pods. Their numbers are very low and sound pollution is a big threat to them. While the civilian population struggles to reduce human impact, the Navy has no right to multiply the problem exponentially.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	This area is both a national and a global treasure. This expansion at Whidbey could ruin it for future human generations and destroy valued species.	
Sharpe-1	Previous mitigation measures have not prevented harm to marine life. At this time when our oceans are stressed by ongoing environmental damage, it's doubly imperative that the Navy suspend these exercises and experiments. What information and feedback you hope to gain will have to be obtained by refining computer-modeling. The health of our oceans and marine life is urgently important, more so than is war-making capabilities.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Shaw C-1	It's. Gotta. Stop.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Shaw M-1	You are harming, harassing, and murdering millions of marine life without repercussions! As an American citizen, I adamantly protest this testing. Why are we harming habitats and destroying entire ecosystems? For the sake of "national defense?" Please reconsider this testing; it is barbaric and unnecessary!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Shay-1	Please stop the harmful underwater sonar testing this testing is not necessary and is causing great damage to our underwater sea life especially our whales. PLEASE STOP I BEG OF YOU	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Shearer-1	Sirs: I am adamantly opposed to any kind of seismic testing in waters that are the habitat of marine species dependent on echolocation for finding their food and pod communication. These sentient and intelligent beings are under threat as it is with their deaths being more and more due to starvation from stomachs full of plastic. We don't need to add more life burdening actions in their "homeland." If the tables were turned, and your	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>homes were being invaded with these kinds of noises that damaged your hearing, what would you do if you couldn't speak the language of the ones doing the testing? Whales, porpoises and dolphins are intelligent and aware. Just stop a minute and remember all the stories about one of them saving a human and making eye contact.</p> <p>Seismic testing isn't truly worth all the damage it will do! PLEASE DON'T! All these marine beings are needed for the eco-balance in their environment.</p> <p>While I am an individual and not a scientist who can quote facts as such, they are already known to those who are involved in the issue. It is just a matter of what is considered more important - a life or a noise test.</p> <p>Thank you for being willing to listen to even a single voice.</p>	<p>populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Shefter J-1	<p>The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. There is no evaluation for other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas should be avoided as a priority for the Department of Defense. While we understand training is necessary there is enough scientific evidence (which is amply available all over the internet) of the negative impact of the jet noise to marine mammals. It negatively affects their sonar which is critical for their feeding and for their survival. It also has severe negative consequences for birds, small mammals and other non-human residences of the Olympic Peninsula and other areas in the Saratoga Passage area. Please investigate alternative areas for these jet training exercises. There are many more remote areas that would be less negatively impacted.</p> <p>It is sad to witness the unnecessary destruction of this beautiful area.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Shefter M-1	<p>While we don't like the noise or the aircraft flying directly overhead, we understand the need for training,</p> <p>However, as has been previously reported, the noise is affecting the Orca population.</p> <p>Is it possible to re-route the training exercise over the Pacific Ocean so as not to affect the whale migration in limited areas such as the Saratoga Passage.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Shepard-1	Please do not release any heavy metals or other toxins into the PNW.	The Navy's proposed activities do not include dumping of any materials, including heavy metals. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Shepherd-1	I am against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. ☐ Marine mammals utilize sound extensively; but sonar testing can limit their ability to recognise frequencies in sound. ☐☐ A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. ☐ ☐ The Navy's use of sonar would cause these porpoises permanent hearing loss and limit their chance of survival.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sherk-1	There are not many majestic untouched (almost) areas in our country. This training disrupts the plant and animal life in the area and has negative effects on our lands. I do not think our forest and sea in the PNW should be used to advance such a destructive agenda.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sherman J-1	<p>This is my reply [to] your recent notice about the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS for your NW Training and Testing Program. Having never seen this Draft document nor any summary of it I cannot comment on any specific details of it.</p> <p>My comments are limited to:</p> <p>(1) Effect of the training &amp; testing program on marine mammals and fish and sea quality</p> <p>(2) Involving use of sonar and explosives</p> <p>(3) Sea strikes from Navy ships</p> <p>(4) Sea pollution from ship oil plus waste.</p> <p>Marine mammals have [illegible] sensitive echolocation abilities for communicating and possibly for locating and attacking prey. Use of sonar may [illegible] this echolocation ability, threatening the lives of the mammals. Sonar use should be minimized and [illegible] not harmful</p> <p>Explosives should be minimized for same echolocation reason and should not be used near any marine sanctuary or [illegible]. This applies to [illegible] training/testing operations.</p> <p>Ships and plans should avoid operating near marine mammal feeding, mating, migrating [illegible] areas</p> <p>Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits killing [illegible]</p> <p>These animals should be fully [illegible] with [illegible] including day &amp; night watch for marine mammals.</p> <p>To avoid seastrikes ship speeds and mass maneuver should be minimized. Sea quality should be protected from ship oil and food and other ship waste that should be disposed of only onboard. The fueling of ships can result in sea oil pollution. Such operations must be very carefully done. I assume that this operation will occur from Northern California to the Canadian border including Puget Sound.</p> <p>The Sound is under [illegible] stress from man's activities but I am [illegible] comments to Washington residents.</p> <p>If adjacent state Coastal Zone Management Act please [illegible] marine mammal [illegible] sea quality provisions the Navy should fully recognize them.</p> <p>P.S. I was unable to attend the April 30 public meeting in Newport.</p>	<p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Sherman S-1	<p>I oppose the Navy's Training &amp; Testing and demand stronger protection for the Ocean &amp; the Northern California Tribes Cultural Lifeways.</p> <p>The adequacy of the assessment of Tribal cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy's training and testing activities is</p>	<p>Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>especially important because these activities take place in the Pacific Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and is critically important for the wellbeing of all people and lifeforms on this planet.</p> <p>The Navy should work meaningfully with the Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <p>The Navy should prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals.</p> <p>The "best available science" referenced in the draft SEIS should be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTRC.</p> <p>The Navy's monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy should expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing</p>	
Shiah-1	As a new resident of the Olympic peninsula, I am very disheartened at the constant, very loud noise from the Growler training flights. I certainly strongly support a well trained military and understand the need for the	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>training flights.</p> <p>However, this is a populated area that many people live in and visit and the noise is very annoying and stressful. The Olympic National Park is also a much revered and special place that this ongoing noise is unwelcome.</p> <p>I strongly encourage you to consider ceasing all Growler training flights in this area and re-locate the jets to an un-populated region of the US (perhaps Nevada).</p> <p>Thank you for considering these comments.</p>	<p>MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in Nevada are not reasonable. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Shockley-1	<p>As a longtime resident of California I am 100percent oppose to this testing. Out marine life is being destroyed by the ongoing negligence of our institutions. The Navy included. Study after study has been done and the detrimental affects of SONAR testing are undisputed.</p> <p>I am opposed and horrified at the cavalier way our oceans and the life they contain are being used as something to rip apart at will.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Short-1	<p>These are not "substantive" but they should mean something. The big point is being missed in this meeting. We cannot, as a species, continue to see ourselves as separate nations at war with one another, as separate individuals pursuing our own wealth or career goals. If we ruin this planet we will all die—we don't need to wait for our enemies to kill us. We need to protect the oceans and the air and the web of life that allows us to exist. Other goals must give way to this.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Shroyer-1	<p>The use of sonar has been linked to a widespread stranding of dolphins and whales around the world. Sonar has been reported to trigger certain behavioral and psychological changes in underwater species and can lead to their death as well.</p> <p>Ever since the technology has been introduced, the cases of mass stranding of marine animals on coasts and shores around the world has been on a rise.</p> <p>What happens is that most mammals rely on sound for a large number of functions in life such as movement, foraging and even communication. Thus when a foreign sound which is too loud is introduced in the marine environment, it can interfere with the basic life and functions of the animals and may affect them in multiple ways.</p> <p>As an example, whales that are exposed to sonar pings would stop swimming or feeding and they will swim away from the noise. Their swimming style would change from relaxed strokes to long and deep dives. Through many research findings and other evidence, it was found that many marine animals would surface rapidly due to the noise and this made them vulnerable to decompression illness. When beaked whales dive deeper than usual due to the sonar pings, their lungs tend to collapse. This stops the infiltration of nitrogen in their blood and this in turn makes them vulnerable to the decompression sickness.</p> <p>The beaked whales are reportedly the most affected species as far as mass stranding due to sonar noise is concerned. This could be due to the fact that these whales are the world's deepest diving whales and are spotted at those depths where submarines are placed mostly.</p> <p>A lot of whales confuse the sonar pings to the sounds made by killer whales and this too could be a reason that their behavior changed.</p> <p>Sonar pings can also cause permanent injury and deafness among marine mammals and this is the violation of the National Environment Policy Act and several other acts.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, and the "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)" (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>).</p>
Shupe-1	<p>These sonar tests are harmful to these gracious and gentle giants. Please stop continuing this</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Shuri-1	1. ES.5.1 No Action Alternative. The Draft Supplemental EIS defines the No Action Alternative as complete cessation of all activities and “the Proposed Action does not take place”. Because this approach is not acceptable with respect to meeting the Navy’s statutory requirements, it becomes a trivial and meaningless standard that obscures the magnitude of increases in activities under the proposed alternatives, relative to the current level of activities. The DSEIS should be revised to consider the current level of activities as No Action, as was done in the 2015 DEIS, and the differences between the No Action and other Alternatives clearly defined in the Executive Summary and elsewhere in the document.	<p>In regards to providing a “continuing action” No Action Alternative, the Navy applied a scenario where no authorizations or permits are issued, the Navy’s training and testing activities do not take place, and the resulting environmental effects from taking no action were compared with the effects of the Proposed Action (refer to Section 2.4.2.1 [No Action Alternative] of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS). This approach supports NMFS’ regulatory process by presenting the scenario where no authorization will be issued. Additionally, this approach responds to comments submitted at various stages regarding the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and during the scoping process of this Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. However, Section 2.4.1 (Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration) has been expanded to include a Continuing Action Alternative. This alternative considers no change to the training and testing activities as approved in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and the Navy consulting with NMFS under the MMPA. The Navy determined that this alternative did not meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action after thorough consideration.</p> <p>As stated in Section 2.4.2.1 (No Action Alternative) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, "the analysis associated with the No Action Alternative is carried forward in order to compare the magnitude of the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Actions with the conditions that would occur if the Proposed Action did not occur." The No Action Alternative was sufficiently analyzed, and a Supplemental Draft EIS/OEIS is not warranted.</p>
Shuri-2	2. Table ES-1: Summary of Environmental Impacts for the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. Consistently throughout this table, the No Action Alternative states that it “would lessen the potential for impacts” on the associated resource category. Based on the definition of the No Action Alternative as discussed in comment 1 above, this wording should be changed to “would eliminate the potential for impacts”. The current wording unrealistically minimizes the differences between the No Action and the other Alternatives.	Because there would still be the potential for impacts from other sources, the wording is correct.
Shuri-3	3. Table ES-1: Summary of Environmental Impacts for the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. The language in the table is strictly non-quantitative, using terms such as “minor”, “significant”, “low”, and similar expressions. These terms are vague and subjective and do not convey actual risks in a way that can be utilized for determination of acceptable impact levels. Quantitative information, for example, the	No marine mammal deaths are expected as a result of the Navy's proposed activities. The text quoted is from the Executive Summary of the document and is necessarily brief. Please see the full analysis in each of the appropriate sections within Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	expected number of marine mammal deaths relative to the total population, should be added to this table to provide a clearer indication of the effects of each of the proposed Alternatives.	
Shuri-4	4. ES.7.5.1 Consistency with Other Federal, State, and Local Plans, Policies and Regulations. The Draft Supplemental EIS has not evaluated consistency with or implementation of recently enacted (April 2019) State legislation related to protecting orca environment and food supply, namely Senate Bill 5577, House Bill 1578, House Bill 1579, and Senate Bill 5135, because this legislation was not in effect at the time of preparing the DSEIS. The DSEIS should be revised to include appropriate implementation of these laws based on consultation with the appropriate State agencies.	The federal government is not generally subject to the laws and regulations of any individual state. However, the Navy has been invited to take part and, as a result, a team of Navy subject matter experts and Navy officers began to participate with the Task Force's working groups on prey and vessel traffic. The Navy participated in the Governor's Task Force, as the group identified ways to support recovery efforts for the Southern Resident killer whales. The Navy has also been a key contributor to marine species monitoring projects for a number of years to advance scientific knowledge of Southern Resident killer whales and the salmon they rely on. For decades, the Navy has implemented habitat improvement projects on its installations in Puget Sound that benefit the Southern Residents.
Sickenberger-1	I am against the Navy's sonar testing because it harms the animals of the sea. We are their voice, without us, they have no one to help them :-(	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Siebrands-1	I live less than 4 miles from the entrance to Olympic Natl Park. At my home, I can always know when a Growler is flying as they make more noise than any other aircraft that passes anywhere near. It is bad enough to hear them at home, but the noise is so much more insulting when I am hiking in the Olympics to "get away from it all" and routinely hear a Growler overhead. I know it is convenient for Whidbey aircraft to have all this lovely airspace so close, but, as a retired USCG helicopter pilot, I know we regularly, when possible, adjusted flight paths to not impact the citizens on the ground. I have not seen such concern or consideration in this process of the Navy. The Peninsula does not have a large population and maybe that is why the Navy has not been too concerned about accommodating locals' concerns. That is not what I expect from a military entity that has a huge impact on civilian's daily lives. There are options.	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The Navy considered but did not develop mitigation for aircraft overflights, such as shifting transit routes, relocating aircrew training activities, or modifying flight altitudes, because such mitigation would not be practical to implement due to implications for safety and mission requirements. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controls the National Airspace System</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		and routes that overlap the NWTT Study Area. The FAA designed the routes to efficiently manage air traffic in the region and to safely deconflict military traffic from commercial and general aviation aircraft, with consideration given to the presence of Canadian National Airspace and traffic to the north. The FAA is the responsible federal agency for determining transit routes and any changes to such routes must be approved by the FAA. The Navy is currently in discussions with the FAA exploring the possibility of shifting the FAA-established transit routes for military aircraft transiting to and from the Olympic MOA from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to the north of the Olympic Peninsula. The purpose of these discussions is to consider the efficient and safe use of navigable airspace. While ultimately any shift in transit routes is the FAA's decision, it is possible that, if approved, such a shift will have the added benefit of reducing military aircraft noise over the Olympic National Park.
Sieglinde-1	Stop sonar testing by the US Navy in the Salish Sea!!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sievert-1	Why do we need this? The Navy has Widbey Island, which has been ruining the environment for years. To ruin another ancient environment would harm the animals and people who live there. This is an ancient place and should be protected and well as the native people.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Silver-1	This is animal cruelty. Stop!	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Silveria-1	Training with Growlers does not belong on the peaceful Olympic Peninsula. There are other places they could train without disturbing the protected natural spaces here.	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Silvia K-1	Please do not allow sonar testing in the waters. This often kills cetaceans! Very detrimental to our ecosystems.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Silvia P-1	No dañen más animales por favor	Gracias por su participación en el proceso de la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental. Su comentario es parte del registro oficial del proyecto. Las actividades de entrenamiento y pruebas propuestas son generalmente consistentes con el entrenamiento y las pruebas que la Marina ha estado llevando a cabo en el área de estudio de NWTT durante décadas.
Simon-1	We need to prioritize wildlife more. There are plenty of sea to go around but little orca habitat. Move the ships somewhere else or stop using sonar in these areas.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy has considered conducting training and testing in other locations; however, as stated in Section 2.4.1.1 (Alternate Training and Testing Locations), other locations fail to provide all the attributes necessary for effective training and testing.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Simpson D-1	<p>My concern's not so much -- my concern's working concept in terms of what's going on tonight is that the Navy has a great opportunity in front of it. Based on the facts that IT'S inarguable that the oceans are dying because it forces -- some of which are directed within climate change, species are dying; coral reefs are dying. Plastic is prolific, the section causing disruption in the food chain. The Navy has an opportunity to lead the way and to provide protection and restoration to the seas. In other words, repurpose. I'm suggesting that we consider seriously repurposing of the Navy to take on issues that are presented to us causing our future to be so much in question. Without the oceans, we're doomed. And the oceans seemed to be doomed. So I'm proposing that we launch a series of programs. The Navy's launching programs. One, for instance, could be assisting the clean up of and dealing with the plastic waste, gyres of plastic, G-Y-R-E-S. Plastic wastes are circling the ocean in massive amounts. And in breaking down, the process entering the food chain, poisoning the fish, starving them. The fish consume microparticles of the plastic because they resemble food. And either they're poisoned outright or they starve to death because they do not have room to eat nourishing substances. So right now, the Navy suggestion was that the Navy doesn't have the tools. But, of course, the tools can be developed for emergencies perceived. If it's important enough, the tools will be developed. For instance, going into World War II in 1939, the United States military was paltry. In 1941, it was strong, the strongest military force ever. So in a short period of time, the demand was there. The military rise to the occasion. That's what we need to do here soon because we -- all those -- these forces are proliferated. The ocean's heating up. The coral reefs are dying, proliferating oceanic problems. The Navy could establish itself as a leader and provide an example to China and Russia to challenge this. This is what the Navy's dedicated to, survival. You can do -- so that the competition between nations is to build on the need to protect our treasures, our oceanic treasures.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Simpson J-1	<p>Dear Navy I am a person with health issues and the jet noise does not make my health issues better I feel it makes it worse can you fly your jets please somewhere else I have health issues from being traumatized by a nurse and I have cortisol stress related health issues as a result of being choked by a nurse and in my bed at night I have to hear the noise right outside my window and it is very much disturbing for me and hurtful. I feel it is time for the jets to fly somewhere else. Ms. Jessica Simpson thank you for your time</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Simpson K-1	Simply stated, the Growlers are too noisy in the residential area where we live. I have monitored them of at least 102 db and one cannot hear a conversation or TV when they are flying over. And, they do NOT observe the sound abatement regulations of Island County when they are flying from 9:30 to 11:30 at night. Relocate the Growler jets from using OLF to another landing field. Having the Growlers fly here is like oil and water they do not mix. There are health factors that you need to be aware of and address, like hearing loss, insomnia, anticipatory stress disorders and high blood pressure, etc. The Growlers have no place being here!	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island or OLF Coupeville. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a>
Sinatra-1	Please no sonar in the oceans. If the oceans die, we die.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Singh-1	Read the whole story Mentally. We Humans should understand its their home also and this Planet is Not only for us but for other life forms also. Us Navy should stop these sonar Practices 🙏	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sinker-1	I have attached a Word document that contains my full and complete public comment, the entirety of which is incorporated into this comment form. Thank you	Please see responses below.
Sinker-2	Olympic National Park and the outer Washington Coast, from Kalaloch to Neah Bay are very special to me, and our family has spent many weeks visiting these incredibly beautiful and peaceful places over the last 40 years or so. However, since the Navy began Growler operations the experience is	DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>now significantly degraded. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed extension of the special 3-year permit, due to expire at the end of 2020.</p> <p>The Supplemental EIS/OEIS is lacking scientific support in several areas:</p> <p>1. On-site monitoring of aircraft overflights, instead of modeling, is required to accurately measure and evaluate the impacts of Growler overflights of Olympic National Park and adjacent Olympic National Forest lands. The “Military Operations Area” (MOA) encompasses large portion of the Park, adjacent US Forest Service land, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. To base the evaluation of impacts from sound on both people and wildlife on modeling rather than on peer-reviewed scientific study is speculation and not science. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS must be based only on scientific facts.</p> <p>2. I have direct experience with these Growlers flying over my home in North Snohomish County/Stanwood area. The flights at lower elevations are anything but a “human whisper” (see Pg. 9, Fig. 2, Supp. EIS/OEIS). Rather, the resulting effects range from so loud that you can’t hear anything until they pass by to terrifying my horses to the point they ran through a fence when one of these planes flew over in the dark of night at 10:30 pm earlier this year. In fact, the noise was so loud I went outside and thought at first the plane might be in trouble, until I saw it turn smoothly toward the west and head towards NAS Whidbey. Natural noise and aircraft noise are completely different and so are the resulting effects, not only on people but on animals, wildlife and birds. Modeling for noise impacts is speculation, not sound scientific procedure as required by the Environmental Impact Statement process. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS must use peer-reviewed science to determine the effects of these planes on people, animals, wildlife and birds.</p>	<p>these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD’s position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Sinker-3	<p>3. The establishment of a MOA in whole or in part over a National Park is entirely inappropriate. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS gives no scientific basis for conducting the activities detailed therein within or over a National Park or designated marine sanctuary. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS does not show that the Navy is exempt from conducting only those activities that will preserve Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary for the enjoyment of current and future generations. The activities proposed in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS are the exact opposite and will significantly degrade the natural conditions at Olympic National Park. It’s already happening at year-round highly visited areas on the coastal beaches from Kalaloch to Neah Bay, Hurricane Ridge, and the Hoh</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA’s designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA’s designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic Military Operations</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	rain forest as the loud Growlers interfere with the historically peaceful natural environment.	Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Sinker-4	4. The proposed and current training and testing activities in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary are absolutely incompatible with the purpose set forth by Congress in establishing this sanctuary in the first place. Ships, aircraft, live ammunition and explosives are not minimal impacts by any use of the definition of “minimal.” The suggestion in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS that any effects from these operations are very likely to be minimal is speculation and not based on any peer-reviewed sound science.	To ensure compliance with the National Marine Sanctuary Program regulations and the interagency consultation requirements of National Marine Sanctuaries Act section 304(d), the Navy considered all proposed modifications to training and testing activities to determine whether they have the potential to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure sanctuary resources, or result in adverse impacts on sanctuary resources or qualities. Accordingly, the Navy and NMFS submitted a joint Sanctuary Resource Statement to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.  All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sinker-5	5. Throughout the Supplemental EIS/OEIS the reason given for choosing the Olympic Peninsula is one of convenience with associated cost savings in money spent for aircraft fuel. Sorry, but convenience and cost savings alone don’t justify the degradation of a premier national park and designated marine sanctuary, both established by Congress to be protected in perpetuity. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS does not present an alternative that details this proposed training and Growler overflights for an area that is already designated for military or warfare training. Such an alternative must be presented to the public for review and consideration.	Please see response to Sinker-3.
Sinker-6	6. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS lacks a sound and scientifically-based plan for eliminating or severely limiting Growler overflights to the park, its visitors and all wildlife, marine and on land. Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary have not been designated as warfare training areas by Congress, but rather to be preserved and protected in perpetuity.	Please see responses to Sinker-3 and Sinker-4.
Sinker-7	7. The Marbled Murrelet is listed as endangered under Washington State law and this is not mentioned in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. On Pages. 3.6-5.6, it is stated that, “Marbled Murrelets would be exposed to explosives during mine countermeasures and neutralization testing proposed in the offshore areas...” There is no scientific evidence presented that this	The Navy consulted with USFWS under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to address potential impacts to marbled murrelets with implementation of the preferred alternative. Discussions about the level of benefit of the Navy's mitigation measures are presented throughout Section 5.3 (Procedural Mitigation to be Implemented) and Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	exposure will be beneficial to the recovery of this endangered species. It is scientifically known that such exposure can result in scarred or ruptured eardrums or gastrointestinal problems that can lead to death. The proposed mitigation of having a single observer with binoculars watching for Marbled Murrelets is almost laughable, given how difficult it is to spot these birds in ideal conditions (calm water, clear visibility, etc.) let alone from a ship that is underway during military training exercises.	Assessment). The Navy will implement procedural mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from applicable acoustic, explosive, and physical disturbance and strike stressors on marine and bird species wherever and whenever activities occur in the Study Area. In addition to procedural mitigation, the Navy developed mitigation areas to further avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, and fish in important habitat areas. For example, the Navy will restrict all but one type of explosive activity from occurring within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area year-round, which will help the Navy avoid potential impacts from explosives on marbled murrelets in important foraging areas.
Sinker-8	8. Sound science is again severely lacking on the effects of Growler overflights and associated activities on the Northern Spotted Owl. Critical habitat designations for the Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet are found throughout the entire proposed area and yet no scientific evidence is presented showing that the overflights and associated activities will be beneficial to the recovery of these endangered birds. Regarding the Northern Spotted Owl, the Supplemental EIS/OEIS uses data extrapolated from a study done on Mexican Spotted Owls – different bird, different environment – and thus this study is completely useless for the purpose of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS must contain sound relevant scientific studies relating to the Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and all marine and land birds, mammals and wildlife residing in or transiting through the proposed training and Growler overflight areas.	The analysis of potential impacts to northern spotted owls was conducted in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, and was also included in the consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, resulting in the 2016 Biological Opinion in which the Service stated, "the proposed aircraft overflights are likely to affect spotted owls through intermittent exposures to aircraft noise throughout the year, including during the nesting season. However, because Navy aircraft will maintain minimum flight altitudes well above the distances at which any significant behavioral responses by affected spotted owls are likely to occur, the effects to spotted owls by these aircraft overflights are considered insignificant." The Navy is not proposing to decrease flight altitudes, so the conclusion of insignificant effect to spotted owls remains correct.
Sinker-9	The cumulative effects of sonar and underwater explosions on marine mammals are not entirely known and are of great concern to me. This Supplemental EIS/OEIS does not relieve any of my concerns in this area and must include relevant, in-depth peer-reviewed studies on all of the marine mammals residing in or transiting through the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. I understand the importance of military training; however, military training must be undertaken in an area already designated for such purpose. Olympic National Park, the adjacent Olympic National Forest lands, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary are not designated for this purpose and certainly designated as areas for warfare training as proposed by this document. Thank you for considering my comment and please keep me informed.	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, all backed up by hundreds of relevant, in-depth, peer-reviewed studies.
Sirois-1	Seismic testing and ships cause permanent damage to the ecological balance of the ocean's marine animals. Many marine animals rely on sound	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>to communicate, locate food, avoid predators and navigate. Exposure to certain frequencies of sonar could also affect animals' ability to hear sounds in those ranges. You must take measure to prevent such damage and protect these creatures.</p> <p>The Navy estimates that over 320,000 porpoises and 1,100 whales will experience hearing loss from their screeching sonar. These marine mammals depend on their ability to hear to survive! PLEASE REDUCE SEISMIC/SONAR TESTING AND TRAINING to consider the effect on the ocean's inhabitants.</p>	<p>and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.</p>
Siroshton-01	This field appears to have an issue, I have attached my comments in aa file below.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Siroshton-02	<p><b>1. Navy impacts on Southern Resident orcas were in fact recognized as an issue by the Orca Task Force in Washington state.</b></p> <p>The EIS inaccurately claims that "Navy actions were not the sources for any of the identified threats" in the report by the Southern Resident Orca Task Force (Office of the Washington Governor, 2018) (page 3.4-46).</p> <p>Given the small size of the endangered Southern Resident orca population today, and the fact that they travel in groups, harm to a single individual orca can easily mean a population-level effect.</p> <p>Each individual orca in the current population matters if the population is to avoid extinction. There has been a net loss of 12 individual Southern Resident orcas since 2011. The population has continued to decline since the 2015 NWTTS EIS. In 2016, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) declared that Southern Resident orcas are one of the marine species most at risk of extinction nationwide. The final EIS will need to be updated with the latest number of Southern Resident orcas alive today, which is currently fewer than the 77 stated in the draft.</p> <p>The Draft EIS states that "the use of sonar and other transducers during training activities as described under Alternative 1 will result in the unintentional taking of killer whales incidental to those activities" (page 3.4-190). The EIS Fact Sheet Booklet states that 99.84% of all estimated</p>	<p>The Task Force Final Report did not identify Navy sonar among the major threats. The major threats identified in the report are a lack of prey, disturbance from noise and vessel traffic, and toxic contaminants in the waters they inhabit. The Navy, as acknowledged by the Governor's Task Force in 2018, was not previously requested to participate in the Task Force, and the Navy was not made aware of conversations held during meetings in 2018. The Navy has since been invited to take part and, as a result, a team of Navy subject matter experts and Navy officers began to participate with the Task Force's working groups on prey and vessel traffic. The Navy participated in the Governor's Task Force, as the group identified ways to support recovery efforts for the Southern Resident killer whales. The Navy has also been a key contributor to marine species monitoring projects for a number of years to advance scientific knowledge of Southern Resident killer whales and the salmon they rely on. For decades, the Navy has implemented habitat improvement projects on its installations in Puget Sound that benefit the Southern Residents.</p> <p>There are several sources of abundance numbers for marine mammal species. For consistency, the Navy uses abundance numbers of Southern Resident killer whales (as well as other marine mammal species) provided by NMFS in</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>takes of marine mammals would be Level B harassment, disrupting natural behavior patterns such as feeding, surfacing, nursing, breeding, sheltering or migration to those point where those patterns are abandoned or significantly alter. These—and especially feeding, breeding, and nursing—are all critical activities for the Southern Resident orcas now, given that they have produced only two surviving calves in the last three years, two orcas are visibly emaciated, and nutritional stress is recognized as a primary threat to the population. Up to 69% of all detectable pregnancies between 2008 and 2014 were unsuccessful, and low availability of Chinook salmon appeared to be a significant cause of late pregnancy failure (Wasser et al. 2017); Level B harassment by Navy activities that interferes with both feeding and breeding or displaces orcas from preferred foraging areas is of significant concern and will further contribute to the Southern Resident orcas' low reproductive success.</p> <p>Table 3.4-40 in the EIS estimates two behavioral impacts to Southern Resident orcas per year from sonar and other transducers. It is unclear whether that means just two individual orcas will likely be affected; if so, we question whether that is realistic given that pods of orcas travel together. We are particularly concerned about new and increased impacts to Southern Resident orcas from mine explosives, which can cause injury or death, and the use of mid-frequency sonar, which can impact other marine mammals out to 16 km offshore. wildlife within 2,000 square miles – well outside the reasonable area that marine mammal observers are able to survey to record marine mammal sightings and initiate mitigation measures. In fact, military exercises have been documented to impact orcas right here in the Salish Sea.</p> <p>In a population with strong family ties, the loss of one orca also directly affects the others' chance of survival. When a female resident orca dies, it increases the mortality risk of her male offspring under age 30 by 3.1 times, and the mortality risk of her male offspring over age 30 by 8.3 times (Foster et al. 2012). In late 2018 and early 2019, for example, it was reported that male Southern Resident orca K25 was observed to be doing poorly after the death of his mother, K13.</p> <p>3. There are documented cases in this region of U.S. and Canadian naval activities, including active sonar training and explosive testing, causing direct harm to the Southern Resident orcas.</p> <p>In 2003, an active sonar training exercise conducted by the U.S. Navy in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca and Haro Strait caused one of the Southern Resident killer whale families (J pod) to stop foraging and exhibit abnormal</p>	<p>the most recent Stock Assessment Report. The Navy tracks this species closely and will continue to use the most recent available data.</p> <p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Please read the discussion of the event involving the USS SHOUP presented in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and the cited U.S. Department of the Navy (2004) <i>Report on the Results of the Inquiry into Allegations of Marine Mammal Impacts Surrounding the Use of Active Sonar by USS SHOUP (DDG 86) in the Haro Strait on or about 5 May 2003</i>. Pearl Harbor, HI: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for an accurate understanding of the event involving the USS SHOUP in 2003.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	behaviors and movement, change direction multiple times, and group together in shallow water where they are at increased risk of stranding. In a video recording of the incident, sonar can clearly be heard above the water. More recent incidents involving testing of sonar and explosives by the Canadian Navy in Southern Resident orca habitat are examples of the potential impact of the activities proposed in this EIS. A juvenile Southern Resident female was stranded in 2012 with evidence of trauma consistent with an explosion or high-pressure impact, a week after the Canadian Navy had been conducting sonar exercises in the region. An exact cause of death was not determined, but experts in underwater noise who continue to review her case believe that the most likely cause of death was an underwater military explosion. In 2017, explosives detonated by the Canadian Navy near a group of Southern Residents (L pod) caused the whales to group together suddenly and flee the area. These examples show that just one incident of training and testing activities impacting Southern Residents can cause significant harm, death, or displacement from preferred habitat.	
Siroshton-03	<p>4. Other agencies and operators are taking new, meaningful steps to reduce noise and disturbance affecting Southern Resident orcas. The Navy must also increase its protections, or it will become responsible for a larger share of the cumulative impact and potentially negate some of the benefits of the other actions being taken.</p> <p>In 2019, Washington state has taken big steps to reduce impacts on Southern Resident orcas from other vessel types, recognizing that noise and disturbance have significant adverse consequences for this endangered population. In May 2019, Governor Inslee signed into law a bill that increases the distance that vessels must stay away from the Southern Residents and enacts a 7-knot speed limit within a half nautical mile of these orcas. The legislature also allocated funding for a new hybrid ferry and funding to convert some ferries to hybrid-electric power. Washington State Ferries is also doing a baseline noise inventory and developing solutions to address noise and frequencies of concern. Meanwhile, in 2019, voluntary ship slowdowns will continue and expand for the third year through the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority-led Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation (ECHO) Program – a Canadian program that directly benefits Southern Resident orcas in the inland waters.</p> <p>The Navy should increase its own mitigation efforts so that there is still a significant net benefit to the Southern Residents in terms of reduced noise</p>	<p>The Navy is fully aware of the plight of the Southern Resident killer whales. In 2019 a team of Navy subject matter experts and Navy officers began to participate with the Governor’s Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force working groups on prey and vessel traffic. The Navy participated in the Governor’s Task Force, as the group identified ways to support recovery efforts for the Southern Resident killer whales.</p> <p>The Navy developed mitigation areas to further avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine mammals in areas that are particularly important for biological life processes, such as feeding and migration.</p> <p>Procedural mitigation measures already in place and proposed to continue include ceasing activities that could be harmful to marine mammals when marine mammals are detected within defined mitigation zones.</p> <p>The Navy has also been a key contributor to marine species monitoring projects for a number of years to advance scientific knowledge of Southern Resident killer whales and the salmon they rely on. For decades, the Navy has implemented habitat improvement projects on its installations in Puget Sound that benefit the Southern Residents.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	and disturbance when all these other entities are increasing their protective measures.	
Siroshton-04	5. The designation for Southern Resident orca critical habitat is likely to change later this year. The Navy should not make final decisions about training and testing in the potential new critical habitat areas off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California until this designation has been made. NMFS has committed to proposing a rule with an expanded designation of critical habitat off Washington, Oregon and California by early October 2019 – an area encompassed by the NWTT range. Advancing this EIS now for activities in an area that is on the cusp of being designated as critical habitat is irresponsible. The Navy should wait until NMFS makes its final designation for expanded critical habitat before pursuing activities that would adversely affect the area. Changes in the Navy's mitigation measures are likely to be necessary so that the proposed action does not "result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat."	The Navy has consulted with NMFS on designated critical habitat as required under the Endangered Species Act. The Navy has been aware of the proposed revision to Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat. As NMFS noted in the Proposed Rule, during preparations for the revision to the critical habitat, NMFS provided the Navy (and other DoD entities) with information regarding the areas under consideration for Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat, and requested the Navy identify areas they own or control which may overlap with the areas under consideration. NMFS also asked the Navy to identify any impacts to national security that might arise from the proposed designation of critical habitat. The Navy included discussions of the proposed critical habitat in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Siroshton-05	6. Recent variations in Southern Resident orca presence in the Salish Sea are complex and should not be an excuse for exercising less caution in the inland waters. The EIS states that "foraging during the spring in Salish Sea by Southern Resident killer whales has declined in recent years as they shift their range and forage for Chinook salmon or other prey species elsewhere in response to reduced prey availability in that historically used inland waters foraging area" (p. 3.4-26). Even spending time elsewhere, Southern Resident orcas are not getting enough food and are showing signs of malnutrition. The inland waters foraging area is still critically important if they are going to survive and thrive. In recognition of this fact, state and federal governments are actively working to restore salmon populations in the inland waters. It is difficult to predict orca presence on a long-term or even annual basis, and the Navy should not assume that the shift outside of the Salish Sea in the spring and summer is a permanent change. The Southern Resident orcas are still sighted in the Salish Sea frequently. In fact, Olson et al. 2018 noted that K and L pods have been increasing the duration of their stay in the inland waters by staying in the Salish Sea through the fall and into the early winter. The Navy should consult with orca biologists to gather other recent information, in addition to reviewing recent published literature on Southern Resident orca presence in the Salish Sea. The EIS implies that changes in the Southern Residents' presence in the Salish Sea mean that protections there are less important than they used to	The statements quoted from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS are part of an establishment of the environmental baseline the Navy then uses to estimate potential impacts resulting from the Navy's activities. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. The commenter incorrectly asserts that the Navy suggests that protective measures in the Salish Sea are less important; however, the Navy has not suggested that and does not consider that to be true. The mitigation measures developed for both NWTT Inland Waters and the NWTT Offshore Area for the Proposed Action represent an increase over the mitigation developed for the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>be. In fact, it should be reason for an extra layer of caution. Reducing noise and disturbance in the heavily-trafficked inland waters could enable the Southern Residents to forage there more effectively and therefore spend more time there as they have historically. Recent information on foraging locations should not be interpreted as a reason to decrease or discontinue mitigation efforts to avoid impacts to Southern Residents in the Salish Sea. Additionally, the Navy should consider that when the Southern Resident orcas are not in inland waters, they are likely to be in their offshore area, which is subject to additional training and testing activities that do not occur in the Salish Sea. The Navy should consider additional mitigation and monitoring in the orcas' offshore habitat given the potential increased use of this area and the unique activities—such as active sonar—that take place in this portion of the NWTT range.</p>	
Siroshton-06	<p>7. The EIS should include two additional studies related to impacts on Southern Resident orcas: Wieland et al. 2010 and Emmons et al. 2019. Wieland, M., A. Jones, and S. C. P. Renn. 2010. Changing durations of Southern Resident killer whale 23 (<i>Orcinus orca</i>) discrete calls between two periods spanning 28 years. <i>Mar. Mam. Sci.</i> 26(1):195–201. This study found that the Southern Residents make a behavioral adjustment as a result of vessel noise, as measured through an increase in mean durations of discrete calls. “Because they are adjusting their vocal behavior, we must consider the very real possibility that engine noise is hindering their ability to communicate, and may well impact their efficiency at using acoustics to forage and navigate, as well” (Wieland et al. 2010). These findings should be incorporated into 3.4.2.1.1.4 on masking (page 3.4.103, which talks about other species but not killer whales) and into the odontocete discussion on page 3.4-120.</p> <p>Emmons, C.K., M.B. Hanson, and M.O. Lammers. 2019. Monitoring the occurrence of Southern Resident killer whales, other marine mammals, and anthropogenic sound in the Pacific Northwest. Prepared for: U.S. Navy, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, HI. Prepared by: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Northwest Fisheries Science Center under MIPR N00070-17-MP-4C419. 25 February 2019. 23p. This report states that there were 148 mid-frequency active sonar events detected between 2011 and 2017, with the peak overlapping with occurrence of the three killer whale communities (including Southern Residents). This is concerning because, as the EIS states, exposure to mid-frequency sonar has been directly linked to separation of a killer whale calf from its group (page 3.4-102); the separation and loss of a single calf would be a serious blow to the</p>	<p>Wieland et al., 2010 was incorporated in Section 3.4.1.7.4 of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS as recommended by the commenter.</p> <p>The Navy-funded research presented in Emmons et al. 2019 was considered in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, but the report was not cited because it was still in the process of being edited by the authors and had not been finalized. The report has since been finalized and is cited in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Navy does not frequently conduct training or testing activities in the location of the Cape Flattery Offshore hydrophone since that area is highly utilized by commercial vessel traffic, making it an undesirable location for the Navy to conduct activities, especially sonar training or testing.</p> <p>The Navy developed mitigation areas to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on Southern Resident killer whales and other marine species in key foraging, breeding, and migration habitat areas, as described in Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment). For the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy developed several new mitigation measures specific to Southern Resident killer whales. For example, in the NWTT Offshore Area, the Navy developed a new mitigation area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, which encompasses waters off Cape Flattery. The Navy's mitigation now includes annual limits on hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar and prohibits explosive Mine Countermeasures and Neutralization Testing in the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area. All other explosive activities are required to be conducted 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. In addition, the Navy developed a new mitigation to issue annual awareness notification messages</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	small population, given that there are so few calves and the southern residents have had limited reproductive success in recent years. Exposure to mid-frequency sonar has also been directly linked to mass strandings of cetaceans (page 3.4-127). In addition, the EIS states that newer high-duty or continuous active sonars have more potential to mask vocalizations, particularly for mid-frequency cetaceans like killer whales, and “longer-term consequences could include potential decrease in recruitment” (p. 3.4-102). The Southern Resident orcas cannot afford any further decrease in their already very low recruitment rates. The findings from Emmons et al. 2019 regarding seasonal use of different offshore areas by Southern Resident orcas and other whales should also be used to minimize adverse impacts by shifting sonar and explosives testing and training by season and by location.	to alert ships and aircraft to the possible presence of increased concentrations of Southern Resident killer whales seasonally, which will further help avoid potential impacts from vessel movements and training and testing activities on this species.
Siroshton-07	8. New whale report alert systems should be used for real-time monitoring and early warnings to build on the limited capacity of lookouts. The Navy should explore the use of newly available apps and technology that provide real-time information on whale presence in the Salish Sea and along the coast. Using this technology could expand the ability of the Navy’s marine mammal observers to be aware of and respond to the presence of Southern Resident orcas. For example, the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS), developed by the British Columbia Cetacean Sightings Network, alerts mariners to the presence of whales so that mitigation measures may be enacted to reduce the risk of disturbance and collision. Orca Network, Whale Scout, and other organizations in Washington also contribute to a Whale Sighting Network with close to real-time reporting in the Salish Sea.	The Navy developed new mitigation for Navy biologists to initiate communication with the appropriate marine mammal detection networks in NWTT Inland Waters prior to conducting explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers, Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training, Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises, and Small Boat Attack Exercises. This mitigation will help the Navy plan activities in a way that minimizes the potential for exposure of Southern Resident killer whales, as described in Section K.3.3 (Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in NWTT Inland Waters). The Navy will also continue to assess the practicality of other available monitoring techniques as technologies advance.
Siroshton-08	9. Additional information is needed on the anticipated timing of the proposed activities. The EIS should detail the times of year during which the proposed activities will take place. The Southern Resident orcas have exhibited seasonality in their movements, and information from tagging studies, coastal surveys, and passive acoustic monitoring allows some degree of prediction for when and where they may be traveling and foraging. Any overlap in their seasonal movements and the Navy’s testing and training activities will increase impacts on these species. Information about timing should be made public in the EIS and the Navy should seek to adjust the timing of their activities to minimize such overlap.	As stated in Section 2.3 (Proposed Activities), because of the nature of training and testing requirements for forces that must be ready to deploy at all times, activities could occur throughout the year. The Navy added additional details on seasonality and day/night requirements of its activities to Appendix A (Navy Activities Descriptions) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Navy did consider seasonal movements and behaviors of marine species in its effect analysis. The Navy developed mitigation areas to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species either seasonally or year-round in key foraging, breeding, and migration habitats, as described in Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment).
Siroshton-09	10. The intended duration of the EIS is not clear. This EIS is unclear as to the duration of the planned activities. A change in	The duration of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS is for the foreseeable future. The analysis would remain valid unless the Navy makes substantial changes in the

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	the 2019 Naval Defense Authorization Act extended the Navy's authorization for marine mammal take and harassment under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) from five to seven years. It is not stated in this EIS whether the proposed activities were analyzed for impacts over a five-year time period or for the extended seven-year time period.	proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns, or there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. The Marine Mammal Protection Act permits would be in place for seven years.
Siroshton-10	<p>11. Increasing the Navy's testing and training activities at this time is counter to what the endangered Southern Resident orcas need right now to have a chance at recovery.</p> <p>Without bold and immediate actions, the Southern Residents are likely to go extinct within our lifetimes. Everything we can do now to protect the Southern Resident orcas is critical. In a time when we should be taking action to address and decrease threats facing the population, including reducing noise and disturbance, the Navy's proposed activities increase the risks from ocean noise, vessel strike and disturbance, potential direct harm and injury to Southern Resident orcas, and displacement from preferred habitat.</p> <p>The Navy must consider the current crisis facing the endangered Southern Resident orcas and make new adjustments in its testing and training activities. Despite being listed under the Endangered Species Act for nearly 14 years, this unique population is not recovering and is continuing to decline. It is obvious that status quo actions, including the Navy's training and testing activities, are not serving the Southern Resident orcas. Given their highly endangered status and continuing decline, the Navy should be considering how to reduce impacts and increase protections for Southern Resident orcas.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of our input and concerns as you finalize the EIS.</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sivertsen-1	When I moved here 15 years ago I was aware of the training that was occurring at OLF and I was good with it. Now we are being told that a four fold increase will happen with not so much as a compromise. I don't understand why Ault field or some other locations can't take the overflow. The Navy in my view has been a good neighbor up until now. In Addition to increasing the noise they have also contaminated our water sources. It's despicable. They are no longer considered a good neighbor.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island or OLF Coupeville. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a>
Sjogren-1	I wholeheartedly object. This project must not go forward! The environmental impact is unjustifiable. I will bring my young family to these waters to visit their grandparents regularly over the upcoming decades and we need safe and healthy oceans and ecosystems to survive. We do not need more war weapons. This will not make us safer.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sjunneson-1	We need to do everything in our power to protect our marine animals. It is time for the US Navy to do its part and halt the Sonar Testing.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Skullerud-1	<p>Nobody speaks up for the working people near the OLF who have to go to work sleep-deprived after the fighters fly in the evenings, often past 11:00 pm. I am partially retired and can manage a sleep-deprived day because my schedule is flexible, but 9 to 5 working people have no such freedom, and must either take a day off or stumble through their responsibilities as low functioning employees who offer who-knows-what excuses to their employers.</p> <p>Sports youth stop their games to cover their ears. People working on the farms and visitors to such important tourist destinations as Deception Pass must do the same. No one wants to camp under the stars and the Growlers. Income from such an important state park is surely affected. And Whidbey Health hospital in Coupeville has just built a new wing. One wonders how many potential patients from the island will opt for other hospitals at quieter locations like Anacortes.</p> <p>I've lived near the OLF for 10 years and worked daily for 14 years on commercial jets at the Everett Boeing flight line. The Prowlers and</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	commercial jets can't hold a candle to the ear-splitting racket made by the Growlers. These leaf blowers on wings destroy any chance of living outside while they are flying. And it's not much better inside. Despite our soundproofing windows, all phone and face-to-face conversations have to stop while the jets blast overhead. Imagine having to watch captioned TV 24/7 and you get the picture. These jets need to move their practices to less populated areas.	
Slater C-1	I am against the solar testing	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Slater L-1	<p>Thank you for serving and protecting our country and the values it has historically stood for. Among these values, as you may remember, are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The following information related to the upcoming Navy project calls these fundamental values into question: "Last November, the U.S. Navy announced its plan to release 20,000 tons of environmental "stressors," including heavy metals and explosives, into the coastal waters of the U.S. Pacific Northwest over the course of this year."</p> <p>Considering that the Navy already has the most current scientific knowledge with regards to the detrimental effects of heavy metals on all living organisms—humans, marine mammals, fish—and the water we all depend upon for life, how can you possibly justify this flagrant attack on our already fragile ecosystem?? Our orcas, our salmon—our children are already suffering the effects of environmental pollution, with extreme dwindling of populations and severe health issues like never before.</p> <p>How can the Navy, which is sworn to protect our waters and our people, contribute enormous amounts of these well-known highly toxic materials to our vulnerable oceans—here in the Pacific Northwest or anywhere (you know better than anyone that all oceans are connected!)??</p> <p>Please consider the true long-term and short/mid-term consequences of further contamination of our oceans on ALL life, including your own people's children and grandchildren. There must be other creative and healthy alternatives. The Navy has the human and material resources to</p>	Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	implement them, in the name of Life and a safer world for now and generations to come. Thank you.	
Slotterback-1	I live within Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve....an area of outstanding natural beauty, cultural, historical, and architectural significance. This region's unique and extraordinary qualities has drawn the designation of National Historic Reserve and citizens who value them. With the increase of frequency, type, and decibel intensity of jets training at the Coupeville Outlying Field, the well being of our citizens and wildlife are significantly negatively impacted. We would invited those with any doubt as to the negative impact to come sleep under the war zone that skims our tree tops late into the night, night after night. Surely there is an alternate location where this training can be conducted without destroying our lives in this uniquely beautiful Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island or OLF Coupeville. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a>
Slovinac-1	This sonar testing is hurting our SRKW. They are on the brink of extinction and you are ensuring they have no chance to rebound. We are home to many beautiful, intelligent marine animals. Stop hurting them and their home. This is unacceptable.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Smith A-1	I live in England and I am currently 14 years old I have wanted to be a marine biologist since I was 5. It has only been this year more people have been more interested in saving the world. But that's still not enough as so many people are uneducated about these issues we need to act, together now. Please share. Please save lives for animals and humans. Saving the planet starts with what you choose to do about it. Watch the cove.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Smith B-1	"Marine mammals, such the Orca, rely on sound to communicate, locate food, avoid predators, and navigate." Sonar testing in their natural habitat could (and probably will) detrimentally change their behavior. There are countless studies that prove marine mammals, such as porpoises, suffer from hearing loss as a direct result from Navy testing (sonar testing). For many marine mammals this is the equivalent of a death sentence. Please stop any naval testing in these waters. You are harming many	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	populations of marine mammals, not to mention the already threatened Southern Resident Killer Whale population. If you refuse to stop, I request that you spend some more time determining how this will affect the Southern Resident Killer whale population.	3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Smith C-1	it is not acceptable that the Navy conduct training exercises over Olympic National Park.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Smith D-1	This is not right to do this to the sea mammals. It's very disturbing hearing. Please stop	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/">www.navy.marin-species-monitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Smith E-1	<p>I am very much against having the Navy fly lots of loud jet planes over the Olympic Coast of Washington and surrounding areas.</p> <p>They are already doing this and it is frightening annoying and generally terrible! It causes stress even when they are not overhead, just anticipating their arrival. And it creates heart racing panic when a low flying jet turns away and suddenly creates a deafening roar from its engines.</p> <p>When it gets around that this formerly peaceful area is now a playground for noisy war machines I am worried that tourism will drastically decline, hurting an already crippled economy. The animals are also stressed out by</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>all this.</p> <p>I hope that we can keep this area in the ecologically respectful state it has been in since 1907 when Theodore Roosevelt first began preserving park lands.</p> <p>Please see what you can do to help American citizens avoid being saddled with this infringement of our Third Amendment right to be free of the temporary quartering of troops in peace time!</p>	
Smith H-1	<p>The Southern Resident Orca, wild salmon and the Salish Sea as a natural resting sanctuary are under threat of collapse. Damage to one species, or concern of damage to one species seems limited, as we should all be concerned about a military that continues to push destructive war technology given that we are supposedly evolving as a species. But, my focus will be the Southern Resident Orca as a protected and endangered species with a limited range, primarily the Salish Sea and the Coasts of Washington and Canada. These Orca have a limited feeding range, a habitual roaming range, and their food source,/range is under threat by tourism, boat noise, and average sea traffic, fishing, etc. The sonic, wartime frequencies or any sounding tech used to map, or search for resources, are beyond what these limited ranges can tolerate. From what I understand the range for damage during these exercises is extreme, damage to even a few individuals can't be endured. I'd like to see the entire Salish Sea legally protected for 5 to 10 years as an environmentally guarded sanctuary to learn from that protection measure.</p> <p>The Navy's EIS clearly indicates that the Southern Residents will be harmed by their testing and training activities, and this is not acceptable. Our Southern Residents need quiet in order to "hear" their prey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please be reminded that in 2003 during a training session, the J pod quit foraging and instead spent time and calories trying to leave the area instead of hunting and eating.</li> <li>• In pursuing these activities, the Navy violates the Endangered Species Act, which should be protecting the orcas.</li> <li>• The designation for the orcas' critical habitat is under review and the Navy should not be allowed to move forward until the designation is final. Please respect the Southern Resident Orcas' Endangered Species status and take steps to mitigate further harm. Please protect the critical habitat of the orcas and prohibit testing and training in these waters. Please ban sonar and explosives in these waters. I am concerned that the Navy should not engage in any activities that can harm marine life, especially the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales.</li> </ul>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Please read the discussion of the event involving the USS SHOUP presented in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and the cited U.S. Department of the Navy (2004) <i>Report on the Results of the Inquiry into Allegations of Marine Mammal Impacts Surrounding the Use of Active Sonar by USS SHOUP (DDG 86) in the Haro Strait on or about 5 May 2003</i>. Pearl Harbor, HI: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for an accurate understanding of the event involving the USS SHOUP in 2003.</p> <p>The Navy consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the Navy's Proposed Action and potential impacts to endangered species, as required under the Endangered Species Act. Most marine species continue to thrive in the Study Area as well as in other areas where Navy training and testing activities are more extensive, such as Hawaii and Southern California. Therefore, the Navy's analysis of potential impacts is supported by empirical data pertaining to marine mammal species population size and health. The Navy will continue to coordinate with NMFS on criteria and thresholds for assessing impacts to marine mammals, including cumulative impacts.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>The Navy has consulted with NMFS on designated critical habitat as required under the Endangered Species Act. The Navy has been aware of the proposed revision to Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat. As NMFS noted in the Proposed Rule, during preparations for the revision to the critical habitat, NMFS provided the Navy (and other DoD entities) with information regarding the areas under consideration for Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat, and requested the Navy identify areas they own or control which may overlap with the areas under consideration. NMFS also asked the Navy to identify any impacts to national security that might arise from the proposed designation of critical habitat. The Navy included discussions of the proposed critical habitat in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>As described in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Navy is committed to protecting the marine environment during the conduct of its training and testing activities by using extensive measures to protect the marine environment while training and testing for nearly a decade.</p> <p>Based on the analysis in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS and monitoring conducted during actual training and testing events, the proposed training will not pose a risk to whales, fish, and other wildlife given that these same types of activities have been conducted for many years here and in other Range Complexes with no indications of broad-scale impacts that are either injurious or of significant biological impact to marine mammals, fish, or wildlife at those locations. Please see the recent results supporting this as presented in training ranges monitoring reports available at the Navy website (<a href="http://www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.mil/speciesmonitoring.us/</a>) and from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website (<a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications</a>).</p>
Smith J-1	<p>I SUPPORT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TRIBES OPPOSE NAVY TRAINING AND TESTING AND DEMAND STRONGER PROTECTIONS FOR THE OCEAN AND THEIR CULTURAL LIFEWAYS!</p> <p>The adequacy of the assessment of Tribal cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy's training and testing activities is especially important because these activities take place in the Pacific Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and is critically important for the wellbeing of all people and lifeforms on</p>	<p>Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>this planet.</p> <p>The Navy should work meaningfully with the Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <p>The Navy should prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals.</p> <p>The "best available science" referenced in the draft SEIS should be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTRC.</p> <p>The Navy's monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy should expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</p>	
Smith M-1	<p>As one of the people you represent, I want you to know that I wholeheartedly object to the Navy's proposal to use the Olympic Peninsula as training grounds and urge you to do the same. The effect that the different types of pollution, especially noise, will have on the ecosystem there is detrimental to both the animals living there and the humans that call the Peninsula their home. The tourism sector that drives so much of</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>the coastal economy would take a big hit as well, severely effecting residents' income and therefore quality of life.</p> <p>I grew up going to the Olympic Peninsula every summer, and I was and still am in awe of the raw, natural, beauty of the area. As those places become harder and harder to come by, we should be striving to safeguard them even more instead of selling them out.</p> <p>I am 21 years old, and when I am old enough to take my kids out of the city for a little bit, I would love for them to be able to experience the same wonder and amazement that I was able to on the Olympic Peninsula. For them to be able to experience that, I am counting on you now to represent me and the many other people that love and utilize the Peninsula to protect it from just being another casualty to our country's military industrial complex.</p> <p>I urge you to think of the future and the irreversible damage that passing this proposal would bring.</p> <p>Extend the comment period and reject this proposal.</p>	<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Smith N-1	<p>I am 100% against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals! PLEASE STOP NOW!! Thank you.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Smith P-1	<p>Do not release heavy metals, depleted uranium, or other toxins into Puget Sound. I cannot believe you are even contemplating this. It is unsafe and unconscionable.</p>	<p>The Navy does not propose the use of ordnance containing depleted uranium. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p>
Smith S-1	<p>The proposed sonar testing in the Salish Sea could endanger the already at risk Southern Resident Killer Whales (76 members left). Sonar testing could</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	interfere with the sonar of the orcas and compromise their hunting, and they are already starving. Please stay out of the Salish Sea.	The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Smith W-1	Please consider our community and parks when making this decision. Thank you.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Smoke-1	Please reconsider testing in the waters off the sensitive west coast. Our waters are inhabited by our endangered Orcas, and the numbers are down. We'll lose them all.. Your testing will cause problems throughout the area.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Snape-1	How can these creatures endure this noise? Are your intentions to wipe out these animals because that is precisely what will happen. They along with many other sea creatures are being systematically killed off due to humans and their ignorance of sharing this planet.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Snell-1	If the role of the Navy is to protect citizens of the US, then they are neglecting their duty by knowingly harming cetaceans through use of Sonar. Every organism is vital to our ecosystem and by threatening their existence, you threaten the existence of human beings as well.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Snopek-1	The Navy using and testing sonar in this manner will have a tremendously negative impact on the endangered southern resident killer whales and all other marine life dependent on sonar for their movement, hunting/gathering and social life. In essence, the navy will be directly responsible for threatening the existence of these whales and marine life. It is completely unacceptable to move forward with this plan when biodiversity in the pacific northwest depends on us to make the opposite kind of decisions: we need to be changing our behavior to accommodate these delicate ecosystems which are already stressed by human activity, not producing more human activity that will push the ecosystem into a systemic failure and cause extinction.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Soberanis-1	Orcas are the apex predators of the see; however, we can all acknowledge that humans are the one threat they're facing. Everyday we take their food, we've taken their family members, and now the Navy wants to take their hearing away. There are only 76 Southern Residents Orcas and interfering in this way is just gonna aid in these Orcas extinction. There are hundreds of other Marine mammals that will also face this issue, if we even care a little about our planet, our animals, and just mother nature in general we will take action to ensure that the marine population is safe and thriving.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Soest-1	Greetings: "Olympic is one of the premier wilderness parks in the United States, and it harbors one of the richest old-growth forest preserves in the world. The park also protects the core of a larger ecosystem that surrounds it." (Olympic National Park, A Natural History, by Tim McNulty) Short of a direct hit by an atomic missile, nothing could compare with the Navy's plans to systematically ruin this World Heritage Site and make the	<p>The Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS was released to the public before the Kuehne report was made available. The Navy has considered this report in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS (see Section 3.12 and Appendix J). The Navy will continue to use the best available science in its analyses of impacts.</p> <p>The Navy has expanded the noise analysis to include the transit of aircraft to and from the Olympic MOA.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>nearby towns and reservations virtually uninhabitable. Navy jet noise has no business in Olympic National Park. Noise Intrusion. The Navy has offered no data on noise levels proposed, but instead uses models. This is entirely insufficient and unacceptable. Fortunately, recent independent research provides actual data on current Growler activities. Between June 2017 and May 2018 the researchers recorded up to 85 growler overflights per day, with the sound impacting 17% of daylight hours. Some locations were impacted for 50% of daylight hours. 85% of aircraft noise on the Olympic Peninsula is military. This will get much, much worse if the Navy is permitted to implement their current plans.</p> <p>(Source: Impact of Military Flights on Olympic Peninsula Soundscapes: Initial Summary of Findings. Lauren Kuehne, Research Scientist, University of Washington's College of the Environment. June 4, 2019.)</p> <p>Areas Outside MOAs Ignored. The draft SEIS fails to consider the impacts of Growler noise outside the MOAs. This failure is unacceptable given the wide swath of terrain impacted by the sound of even a single Growler.</p> <p>Wildlife Impacts. The draft SEIS fails to consider that Olympic National Park wildlife do not recognize the park boundary. Both the park and the ignored terrain outside the park include critical habitat for endangered and threatened species, such as the Northern spotted owl, Western snowy plover, and Marbled murrelet. Growlers will greatly impact the feeding and nesting activities of these and other species. (My cat hides in the closet when the Blue Angels perform in Seattle.) Here is how the Park Service treats loud noise in the Park:</p> <p>"[Park] biologists determine when threatened species are most vulnerable to impacts such as helicopter noise and siltation in rivers. Birds are most at risk during their spring and summer nesting seasons, while salmon most need protection during their upstream spawning runs. Park staff plan projects around these times, to minimize impacts to threatened species and their critical habitats. We strive to work around, not through, natural lifecycles." (Emphasis added.)</p> <p><a href="https://www.nps.gov/olymp/learn/threatened-and-endangered-species-of-olympic.htm">https://www.nps.gov/olymp/learn/threatened-and-endangered-species-of-olympic.htm</a></p> <p>Pacific Flyway. The Olympic Peninsula is also critical habitat for bird species of the Pacific Flyway. Each spring and fall, a billion birds rely on our Pacific Coast for feeding and resting during the spring and fall migrations between Alaska and the US west coast. This is a fraction of the numbers of birds of a century ago. These birds are already threatened by loss of habitat and</p>	<p>In the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy thoroughly analyzed the potential impacts to all forms of marine life and habitats. See Section 3.3, Marine Habitats; Section 3.4, Marine Mammals; Section 3.5 Sea Turtles; Section 3.6 Birds; Section 3.7, Marine Vegetation; Section 3.8, Marine Invertebrates; and Section 3.9, Fishes.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>dwindling food sources. Threatened or endangered species that use the Pacific Flyway include the Black-footed albatross, Marbled murrelet, Sooty shearwater, and Brant goose.</p> <p>Failure to Consider Alternatives. Before the Navy decided to co-opt so much of Western Washington, they trained elsewhere. The Navy needs to consider alternatives to ruining the natural wonders of the Olympic Peninsula, the inhabitability of the peninsula for its residents, and the visitor-based economy of communities on the peninsula.</p> <p>Convenience for the Navy is not a sufficient reason to wreak such havoc upon so many civilians. Extreme noise causes stress, a legitimately life-threatening condition, as well as economic catastrophe if real estate becomes uninhabitable.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments on the Navy's EIS. Please reject it as unacceptable.</p>	
Somerville-1	<p>Olympic National Park is an oasis of tranquility, world famous as an oasis of silence, an environmental gem that extends from the snowy peaks and glaciers of the Olympic mountains to the protected shores of the Pacific Ocean... except when the Navy's FA-18 Growlers conduct ear-splitting training flights up and down the coast.</p> <p>Overflights of up to 16 hours a day, 260 days a year, destroy any visitor's experience of nature's grandeur and disturb every form of wildlife in the forests and the ocean and threaten the well being of local residents and visitors alike. And the Navy's two-volume Environmental Impact Statement gives no legitimate reason why their training cannot be undertaken in a designated warfare training area.</p> <p>Olympic National Park is not designated a warfare training ground -- for the Navy or anyone else. Olympic National Park exists to protect the flora and fauna of its four distinct environmental zones as well as the natural, geological and human history of those regions.</p> <p>Please fly elsewhere and allow visitors and residents to appreciate nature's quiet and majestic beauty.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Sophie-1	<p>Please stop making noise, stop harassing the living beings of our sacred oceans, stop investing in war. Start putting your efforts into more sustainable solutions to create a better world for everyone. Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sorensen-1	I am against sonar practices, as they have been proven to harm our marine animals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sorkin-1	Whales are dying along our coast due to naval interferences and they are an intrinsic element of this planet's ecology. Test out of the whales migration' range, PLEASE!	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sormani-1	Humans would NOT tolerate this unacceptable practice, nor should these whales and marine animals have to!!!! Stop now, this is animal abuse!! 🚫	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Soza P-1	I didn't gain much from this gathering. I expected a detailed speech that all could hear & then questions to follow. An open conversation.	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Soza S-1	We came to this meeting to gain information and hear public input on proposals. This was not remotely what we expected. Quite a few Navy Reps, not too much information shared. Maybe it was the forum. I had to pry technical answers and of most reps I asked, they seemed more defensive than informative. I felt they were so busy formulating a response that they failed to hear the questions.	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Spees-1	Currently I am reviewing a series of DVD on WWII in the Pacific. There are many lessons to be learned from these documentaries. Tarawa was a 'clusterxxxx' and reflecting poor planning, poor execution, and inexperience. We paid for those errors by the US Navy & Marines with the lives of our countrymen. The best deterrent to War is the understanding that the aggressor will get his 'nose bloodied'. The best protection to the environment, a small part of the negative consequences of war, is to prevent a war. Any measures the US Navy can take to strengthen our position will be of benefit to our Country.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	I say: Anchors up and full speed ahead on your training, testing, and research.	
Spees-2	<p>"I am in favor of this project,"</p> <p>ppThere is a steep learning curve in going in to combat. Our Enemies and aggressors, to be defined later, are already far along in their endeavors, we need to catch up or even be ahead of them.</p> <p>ppIn the April/May 2019 edition of Air&amp; Space magazine is a story about PBY's or "Catalina s" (Legends of an ocean crossing seaplane). It only talks about the PBY's use in the Pacific campaign. It had many lessons in how to most effectively wage war.</p> <p>ppThe PBY,nicknamed CATalina's or Cats, were slow and poorly defended. They were sitting ducks for all the Japanese aircraft. Despite these obvious weaknesses it was an awesome and most effective tool of war. Here is why: They had a long range. They were equipped with RADAR which was top secret and rapidly being improved in WWII. (The Japanese were way behind in the use of RADAR detection in WWII.)</p> <p>ppThey were painted black, called 'black cats", flew from dusk to dawn in search of the enemy with RADAR. They could cut their engines and silently glide-in undetected to effectively drop their munitions. We had the technological advantage and used it. Dr. Karl Spees of PAWA 98362</p> <p>Anchors up and full speed ahead on your training, testing, and research</p>	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.
Spickard-1	I urge the US Navy to STOP blasting sonar waves in the habitat of the extremely endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales. They are starving to death & this practice interferes with their ability to hunt salmon and communicate with other whales. This practice is total ignorance of a species fighting for survival. Actions like this by the US military make me furious. STOP	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Spielman-1	I don't think the Navy ever listens to the civilians for any reason. But here goes. Why don't the higher ups care about the oceans? When the oceans are so full of trash and all the mammals and fish are gone where will the Navy launch their boats then! The animals of the ocean help clean it. When you do tests that you are proposing you will hurt any mammal traveling in	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	that area. It has been proven that those tests do hurt the mammals hearing and echo location capabilities. Do the testing on computer generated applications!! Leave the inhabitants of the ocean alone!!!	<p>Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Spina-1	<p>This DEIS, like the Growler expansion DEIS, is in violation of NEPA requirements in that there should be one comprehensive DEIS for all of the expansion and navy military training in the Pacific Northwest. You are illegally segmenting impacts to reduce their appearance. The Growler DEIS/EIS/ROD should be voided, this DEIS should be abandoned, and one comprehensive DEIS for all activities should be conducted.</p> <p>Secondly, this expansion of training for convenience sake cannot justify the permanent damage being done to pristine and fragile environments with devastating impacts upon marine mammals, land creatures, and humans alike. You have places to do this training without the environmental destruction being done here in the Pacific Northwest.</p>	<p>The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.</p>
Sponheim-1	Forward of the Save The Olympic Peninsula (STOP) letter.	See responses to Save The Olympic Peninsula (STOP) letter.
St. Clair-1	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to share my input on the proposed training and testing. I provided verbal comments at the public meeting in Everett but wanted to augment my concerns about the impact on Puget Sound wildlife. I have particular concern about two items:</p> <p>1. The testing of ordinance in Crescent Harbor. This area is an area of extreme important for planned restoration efforts of chinook salmon habitat and the subsequent impact on our Southern Resident Whale population. It is hard to reconcile the efforts to restore salmon habitat and</p>	<p>The analysis of potential impacts to salmon and other marine species was included in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As stated for fishes in Section 3.9.3.2.2.3 (Impacts from Explosives Under Alternative 1), "due to the short-term, infrequent and localized nature of these activities, ESA-listed fishes are unlikely to be exposed multiple times within a short period. In addition, physiological and behavioral reactions would be expected to be brief (seconds to minutes) and infrequent based on the low probability of co-occurrence</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>the state, local and federal investments in that work with ordinance training. I understand that Mr. John Moser has been consulted and states that while there is an allowable maximum of 2.5 lbs (except in wartime when the use is 20 lbs) and that here will be monitoring of salmon migrations, marine mammals and other efforts, whether the monitoring was visual or sonar and whether operations would be suspended with the presence of these vital species was not specified. Even at the proposed ordinance use at only 1.5 lbs, it is still likely to have a biological impact.</p> <p>2. It is a strong concern with the importance and threats to these species that operations could be moved outside of the Puget Sound where mitigation and areas of operation can be more sufficient. I offer the attached research to support my concern that this is not the appropriate location for training.</p> <p>file:///C:/Users/J.StClair/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/EJGYH8RE/AANPMF08167@co.island.wa.us_20190529_140205.pdf</p>	<p>between training activities and these species. Although individuals may be impacted, long term consequences for populations would not be expected."</p>
St. Clair-2	<p>So this was really a wonderful opportunity to look at the offshore work and the broader impact. I'm just going to give feedback on the issues of concern.</p> <p>One is the difference between noise modeling and noise monitoring. I appreciate the research that's gone into noise modeling, but I think we need to really be doing noise monitoring across Puget Sound, whether it's underwater noise monitoring with the sonar -- although I feel a little more comfortable with the work that's been done there -- or the flight monitoring and the impact of the Growlers as they do their work. With the noise modeling that they're doing where they take an average I think that's giving you a false mean because -- or a false average because you're taking data and you're averaging it across 24 hours. You're averaging it across signif -- instead of saying in the hours in which the activity is occurring here is the impact of noise. So we really need to get better, stronger data on what the actual noise impact is during the operation and not separate from the operation. And so that's one of our concerns.</p> <p>The other -- I have to say that I was pleased to see a lot of the mitigation efforts, especially around the wildlife and our efforts on our mitigation, especially with our whales, given the severity of the crisis we have, particularly around our southern resident Orcas. So I was pleased to see some of the mitigation. I was pleased to see that the work out at Marrowstone has stopped and they have changed that work and are not doing the same level of explosive, sonar, disruptive activities as in the past.</p>	<p>Acoustic modeling of in-water sound sources provides the best estimate of expected marine mammal or sea turtle exposures to sound. For more information on that acoustic model, please see the "Quantifying Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles: Methods and Analytical Approach for Phase III Training and Testing" technical report, which can be found on the project website at: <a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents</a>. Much research, based on actual monitoring of various impulsive and non-impulsive sound sources were used in determining criteria and thresholds, two critical parameters used in the acoustic model. For more information on the development and use of those criteria and thresholds, please see the "Criteria and Thresholds for U.S. Navy Acoustic and Explosive Effects Analysis (Phase III) (June 2017)" technical report, found in the same location.</p> <p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>I'm hopeful that will be a positive impact, but it did lead to an interesting conversation about explosive ordnance. So underwater explosives, the disposal work they do, the testing. And there's an area off Crescent Harbor where they've been doing this historically for decades, for years.</p> <p>That is an area in which Island County is going to be investing in habitat restoration, so would love to have a conversation with the Navy about what that means as we partner with the Navy, which we are on that Crescent Harbor, it's their land, and the -- the habitat and the salmon restoration there, how do we then assess and know what the impact will be as we hopefully see a return of our forage fish, our salmonids, and then our adult migrating salmon into that area, if they're doing AODs. What does that mean? So I'd be interested to continue to have that conversation. Now, that's inland waterways and not the offshore stuff that they were doing, but that's of interest to me.</p> <p>I think that's it for now. Yeah, I think that's fine.</p>	<p>conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
St. John-1	<p>Gray whales are dying off the West Coast at an unprecedented rate. NOAA calls this a "wildlife emergency". The causes are as yet not fully understood, but may have to do with insufficient food supply, which itself may have to do with climate change. Other whales, including blue, humpback, dolphins, killer whales, and porpoises are also at risk.</p> <p>Other sea creatures are also in decline and at risk: cetaceans, pinnipeds, sharks, starfish, invertebrates, pelagic and migrating birds, bull kelp, among others. The interactions are not all well understood, but it is clear that the ocean and its creatures are threatened.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the navy is proposing to conduct war games and weapons testing off our coast that will surely exacerbate these risks and conditions. The use of sonar and seismic blasting is particularly dangerous. Both can damage marine mammals' ear-drums. Both make navigation and communication difficult or impossible for marine mammals. Beaching events have been associated with the use of underwater sonar and blasting.</p> <p>How will the Navy guarantee that marine mammals will not be harmed by these activities?</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
St. John-2	<p>The navy proposes to explode munitions in and on the ocean, leaving behind thousands of tons of toxic residue, introducing heavy metals and toxic compounds into the ocean. There has been talk of "cleanup efforts", but how, realistically, can any of that be cleaned up or mitigated? The truth, surely, is that these substances will be left behind, permanently polluting the oceans and endangering the creatures that live there.</p> <p>How will the Navy prevent the pollution of the marine environment from its testing activities?</p> <p>The navy says that its sonar and explosive testing will be 12 miles off-shore, but that is no help considering that sound travels in water far more efficiently than in air. Sonar can be 140 decibels 300 miles from its source. Marine mammals depend on their hearing for navigation, feeding, and reproduction.</p> <p>How will the Navy prevent the severe damage to marine mammals' hearing that sonar blasting can cause?</p>	<p>Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.</p>
St. John-3	<p>The climate is undeniably in crisis. Environmental catastrophe is unfolding before our eyes. The world may not support human or animal life in the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, the Navy is proposing to conduct war games and weapons testing that can only exacerbate the climate crisis. What is the Navy doing to better understand the impact of its testing and training on the environment and in particular on global warming?</p>	<p>The Navy considered the current environment, which includes impacts of climate change, in which its activities will be conducted.</p>
Staley-1	<p>It is imperative that the Navy ceases any and all sonar practices, which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. □ A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. □</p> <p>I have written about the importance of a quiet ocean to the wellbeing of the orca population in the southern area of Vancouver Island and sonar is profoundly disturbing to their echolocation abilities, which is used to find food, mates and communicate with other whales. You are jeopardizing their current wellbeing and possibly pushing this charismatic group closer to extinction.</p> <p>Studies also show that □ harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations. □</p> <p>Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times. □</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	It is morally and ethically imperative that all sonar practice is stopped immediately and permanently.	
Stanley-1	The USN is a very Dirty Bird. Clean up your act!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Stansbury-1	<p>I've lived in the county for 49 years. Okay. My name is Melissa Stansbury. And I heard about the sonar thing hurting marine mammals for -- I don't know -- 20 years or longer. And the few times I hear about it, I put my voice in. There's very little I can do. I just want to put my two cents in for the wildlife and not just mammals but all life in the oceans. We must protect the oceans. The oceans are in peril from plastic garbage already. And I think the sonar thing is, like, one of the worst, nightmarish experiences for any life form to have to experience. I heard that the Navy has alternatives to sonar. I have yet to learn what they are. But I'm happy to hear that and to hear that they have scientists and biologists. And they're willing to find a middle ground and make it safer for the marine wildlife. That's the only reason I'm here is for the wildlife. Thank you.</p> <p>And my boyfriend is a fisherman. And he says that he's concerned about the explosions out in the ocean for the fish. So from a fisherman's perspective. Thank you. Or woman, of course.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Stanton-1	Please do not do any testing close to the gray whale migration or near other marine animals. I live where our economy is dependent on tourists coming to see the whales and appreciate our sea creatures. Plus it is horrible to needlessly disturb these natural wonders. I am adamantly opposed to this testing.	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Stark-1	Cruel and disgraceful.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Stats-1	Please stop killing orcas	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Stearns-1	<p>I strongly urge that this permit for the navy to conduct sonar testing in the North Pacific be denied due to damage and mortality to cetaceans and other marine wildlife.</p> <p>I contest the Navy's assertion that sonar testing does not affect whales. Damage and death to Beaked Whales around the Canary Islands has been conclusively shown to be caused by sonar testing.</p> <p>I urge you to find ways to make sonar tests without damaging wildlife. Our oceans and the life in them are very precious resources essential to our well being.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Steele-1	<p>I consider any further impact on already-stressed marine animals in the Salish Sea to be completely unacceptable. It must stop!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Steidl-1	<p>We are at a critical point in climate change and ecosystem/biodiversity collapse and we cannot afford to release ANY more toxic compounds or additional harmful acoustics into our environment! Making smart long-term decisions for the sake of a livable planet is the most important thing we can do right now. Please do not to release ANY heavy metals, depleted uranium, toxic chemicals, or harmful acoustics into the Puget Sound (or any oceans) or its surrounding environment.</p>	<p>Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.</p> <p>Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p>
Steinberger-1	<p>I am very much opposed to adding 36 more Growler aircraft to NAS Whidbey. I wholeheartedly agree our naval aviators need the best possible training in order to do their jobs. However, NAS Whidbey and OLAF are the wrong venue.</p> <p>The Growler's F-18 airframe is one of the most accident-prone military airframes in existence. Between 1980 and 2014, the F- 18 sustained 39 accidents; 22 crashes of the EA-18G and F/A-18 E,F have occurred since 2000. The F-18 Super Hornet platform has a mishap rate well above the average of all military aircraft, including two serious mishaps involving EA-18G Growlers, since December of 2016. Do we want to run the risk of this very expensive aircraft making touch and go landings next to SR-20 on a 5400 foot runway which is 3500 shorter than recommended by the navy itself for touch and go landings?</p> <p>At the very least, initial takeoffs and landings could occur at Ault field, aviators could then fly to McChord for their touch and go practice - where there are multiple runways and air traffic controllers.</p> <p>The additional noise and air pollution negatively impacts our quality of life and ability to do our jobs. Many jobs are based on tourism: people won't spend their money here with increased jet noise. I personally have first hand experience with having to pause a customer call due to jet noise. Please rethink this policy for all concerned - navy personnel, residents, and tourists</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island or OLF Coupeville. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a></p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Steinstrasser-1	I am 100% AGAINST underwater sonar testing which has been proven to cause harm to marine animals!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Stenberg-01	Please see attached letter	See responses below.
Stenberg-02	<p>I have lived on the Coast of Mendocino County for almost 40 years. My deck is right above the Ocean on the South Coast of Mendocino. I have seen with my own eyes the dire state our Ocean is in from Climate Change and Pollution.</p> <p>Usually during this time of year, I see, daily, a least two pairs of Mother and calf gray whales swimming close to the coast. This year I haven't seen any. I have attending the Navy's public meetings and a read a lot of the draft SEIS. I don't believe the SEIS accurately states our Ocean's current state and the state of its inhabitants.</p> <p>The Ocean ecosystems are in collapse. Sea creatures are starving. Just in the last months there have been over 70 dead Grey Whales washed ashore on West Coast. How many dead whales are still out there or have been eaten by other creatures?</p> <p>(BTW Since I started this letter last week, news reports have stated that 7 more dead Gray Whales have been found on the West Coast.)</p> <p>Climate Change is fluid and getting worse all the time. It is affecting all ocean species.</p> <p>GRAY WHALES</p> <p>The SEIS cites a study done in 2008 and 2010 to claim that there are between 17,000 and 20,000 gray whales on the West Coast.</p> <p>Will the SEIS update information and impacts etc. on the current population of Gray whales? See attached SEIS gray whale references in the SEIS dated from 1984-2014</p> <p>Will the SEIS address the 70+(now 77) whale deaths on the West Coast so far this year, that represent only 10% of the actual loss and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation? How will the SEIS address the Wildlife Emergency just announced by NOAA?</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. As described in Section 5.2.1 (Procedural Mitigation Development), the Navy's analysis assumes that due to limitations such as those mentioned in the comment, Lookouts will not be 100% effective at detecting all individual marine mammals.</p> <p>The Navy used the most current, best available science from the National Marine Fisheries Service for marine mammal populations cited in the document. For the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, released in early 2018, the references cited for determining gray whale populations (as one example) were from 2017 and 2018.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p><a href="https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/">https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/</a>  <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a>  A recent Study published in January 2019 documents the severe effect sonar has on whales.  <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a>  Scientific studies have shown, without a doubt, that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, ‘listening’ is as important as ‘seeing’ is for humans, as they live in a world of water and sound. Noise pollution threatens whale and dolphin populations, interrupting their normal behavior, driving them away from areas important to their survival and at worst injuring or sometimes even causing the deaths of some whales and dolphins.  3.4-107 of the SEIS states that Gray whales in Baja abandoned an historical breeding ground due to an increase in noise and shipping activity.  Until NOAA’s study of the die off on the Gray Whales is complete will disruption of the Ocean by Sonar and Explosive activity as outlined in the SEIS be halted?  The SEIS at 3.4-135 acknowledges that Gray whale are slow moving and sometimes exhibit “snorkeling activity,” they surface quietly and exhale without of any visible blow.  The Navy claims they have lookouts watching for whales before the use of sonar and explosives and are “very unlikely” to have their feeding and migration impacted by the Navy’s activities.  How will the SEIS take into account this “snorkeling” and fog and rough seas that make it near impossible to spot whales?  Noted scientist John Calambokidis, whose’ studies are quote through-out the SEIS state recently that, as we experience the effects of climate change on the ocean’s food supply, “that as the whales search farther afield for food, they’ve entered areas where they’re not normally seen so often, including San Francisco Bay and Puget Sound.”  <a href="https://989theanswer.com/news/national/feds-to-investigate-spike-in-gray-whale-deaths-on-west-coast">https://989theanswer.com/news/national/feds-to-investigate-spike-in-gray-whale-deaths-on-west-coast</a>  Will the SEIS take into account that the high gray whale mortality has something to do with their search for food and that they are often found in unlikely areas?  As an example, just this week Bairied-Beaked whales have been spotted right off the Coast, something that rarely occurs.</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<a href="https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1YUsCsmXzCrOXsIX_5mG7n8l4FgURW10z9HfW67t_2xSi-iBAGDmIoSNo">https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1YUsCsmXzCrOXsIX_5mG7n8l4FgURW10z9HfW67t_2xSi-iBAGDmIoSNo</a>	
Stenberg-03	<p>Should the SEIS integrate the most current climate -related impacts?</p> <p><a href="https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1-4Y3Z0RLp75gZIJ8vDCFUaJQPIx4HjKJZ-caPjSUQG64mrXkfJaEjw">https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1-4Y3Z0RLp75gZIJ8vDCFUaJQPIx4HjKJZ-caPjSUQG64mrXkfJaEjw</a></p> <p>The SEIS details the presence of gray whales in six of the NWT areas for short periods and claims that the gray whales have “low risk” of being impacted. How much risk is acceptable given NOAA’s Wildlife Emergency? The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that “military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor”. At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that “for the most part,” this material will be incidentally ingested by bottom feeders. Gray Whales are bottom feeders. Given the already stressed gray whale population should the SEIS take this into account?</p> <p><a href="https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/">https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/</a></p>	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Stenberg-04	<p>COMMON MURRES</p> <p>We here on the Coast are in the middle of a major die off of the Common Murres.</p> <p><a href="https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murres-underway-along-the-mendocino-coast/?fbclid=IwAR1jCzAbxz1OsGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVP5f7_uo6vlpJF7Dhvc4A7TSgnI9HVXk">https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murres-underway-along-the-mendocino-coast/?fbclid=IwAR1jCzAbxz1OsGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVP5f7_uo6vlpJF7Dhvc4A7TSgnI9HVXk</a></p> <p>According to news reports, “Common murres, little seabirds have been washing up dead by the hundreds of thousands along the shores of Alaska all the way down to San Francisco for the last four years, the reason is thought to be a lack of fish along the west coast. Earlier in 2018, a sea surface sample was the warmest it has been since records began in 1916.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.thebigwobble.org/2019/06/so-far-this-year-at-least-70-gray.html?fbclid=IwAR1S-SDbcPvH8v6U27dhbE41AFNtlwhHbtt0Pc64_HsLTIVGFmEVzZGB44w">http://www.thebigwobble.org/2019/06/so-far-this-year-at-least-70-gray.html?fbclid=IwAR1S-SDbcPvH8v6U27dhbE41AFNtlwhHbtt0Pc64_HsLTIVGFmEVzZGB44w</a></p> <p>The SEIS at 3.6.15 states that the Common Murres were deterred from gillnets by acoustic transmitters. What effect will the solar and explosive</p>	The analysis of the potential impacts related to birds, including murres, can be found in Section 3.6 (Birds) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Impacts to kelp can be found in Section 3.8 (Marine Vegetation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Navy considers the current affected environment, which includes the affects of climate change. Climate change is addressed in the NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS in Section 3.2.3.2 (Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change). Climate change, as a cumulative impact was analyzed in the 2015 NWT Final EIS/OEIS and referred to in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>activities Stressors outlined in the SEIS have on the Common Murres? Will the SEIS address the major die off of the Common Murres and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation?</p> <p>KELP</p> <p>Should the SEIS address the loss of the kelp forests and abalone and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS that will exacerbate this situation?</p> <p>I see with my own eyes that the Kelp forests are gone so are the abalone.  <a href="https://www.cencoos.org/about/news/2016/warm-waters-impact-california-kelp-forests">https://www.cencoos.org/about/news/2016/warm-waters-impact-california-kelp-forests</a>  <a href="https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Sport-Fishing">https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Sport-Fishing</a></p> <p>NATIONAL SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>The Pentagon issued its own finding in 2015 outlining the security effects of Climate Change and issued orders that, all combatant commands integrate climate-related impacts into their planning cycles,  <a href="https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710/">https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710/</a></p> <p>Even with this Administration's denial of Climate Change and its effects, the DOD issued a report in January 2019. It states "The effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to Department of Defense, missions, operational plans, and installations. "  <a href="https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jan/29/2002084200/-1/-1/1/CLIMATE-CHANGE-REPORT-2019.PDF">https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jan/29/2002084200/-1/-1/1/CLIMATE-CHANGE-REPORT-2019.PDF</a></p> <p>Will the SEIS address the how the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will contribute to the threat to our national security due to the activities listed in the SEIS that contribute to climate change and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbate this situation?</p> <p>As stated, Climate Change is fluid and getting worse all the time. The draft SEIS does not integrate current climate -related impacts.</p> <p>Will the SEIS update its underlying references that it uses to justify its proposed activities?</p> <p>Ocean heat waves are another problem exacerbated by explosives and SONAR. Will the SEIS address the Ocean heat waves and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbate this situation?  <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0412-1">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0412-1</a></p>	
Stenberg-05	<p>TRIBAL CONCERNS</p> <p>The Navy is mandated to work meaningfully with Pacific Coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of</p>	<p>The Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.</p> <p>As stated in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the term "traditional resources" is used to encompass protected tribal resources.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.	
Stenberg-06	Will the SEIS expand prohibited activities in the 50-mile mitigation area to include use of sonar, due to the overwhelming evidence that sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals?	Training and testing with active sonar is essential to national security. The Navy uses active sonar during military readiness activities only when it is essential to training missions or testing program requirements since active sonar has the potential to alert opposing forces to the operating platform's presence. Passive sonar and other available sensors are used in concert with active sonar to the maximum extent practicable. The Navy will implement procedural mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals wherever and whenever activities occur in the Study Area. In addition to procedural mitigation, the Navy developed mitigation areas to further avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals in important habitat areas. For example, the Navy will restrict certain activities or types of sonar year-round within 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, seasonally within the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area and Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area, and year-round in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area to help the Navy avoid potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals in important foraging and migration areas. Additional mitigation for active sonar (e.g., prohibiting sonar within 50 NM from shore) would be impractical to implement for the reasons described in the Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) and Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar).
Stenberg-07	Should the "best available science" referenced in the Draft SEIS be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge? Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTT.	The Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality. As stated in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the term "traditional resources" is used to encompass protected tribal resources.
Stenberg-08	Will the monitoring program outlined in the SEIS be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels? Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.	The Navy understands there may be limitations of the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act protecting cultural and spiritual resources. The Navy's monitoring program does address impacts beyond the potential for harm at the population level. The Navy uses cutting edge research to improve the science in a number of areas, including marine mammal densities, species occurrence, exposure and response, and habitat use. The Navy has consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the resulting mitigation measures achieve the least practicable adverse impact. The Navy is committed to continual good faith consultations in the



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		context of the government-to-government relationships, which endures beyond consultations limited to a specific law or project.
Stenberg-09	Will the SEIS expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing?	The Navy acknowledges the spiritual connections, as stated in Section 3.10.1 (Affected Environment) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, "Sociocultural elements, such as traditions, lifeways, religious practices, community values, and social institutions may be considered by some groups to be types of cultural resources, especially within tribal communities whose traditional interaction with the natural world is integral to their culture. However, the Navy has completed this Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS within the framework of NEPA, providing impacts as determined using the best available science. As stated in Section 3.10.1, this supplement is organized "to consider cultural and historic elements of the human environment within and between the three following sections: Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.11 (American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources), and Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). Combined, these sections seek to provide a full analysis of the potential impacts from the Proposed Action on sociocultural elements of American Indian/Alaska Native communities and American history." The Navy acknowledges that some of its activities may impact cultural or spiritual resources.
Stenberg-10	Why isn't the cumulative effect of ocean acidification considered in the SEIS? The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives by products in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.	The Navy discusses ocean acidification in the context of climate change in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) and 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality) of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and includes information from scientific studies conducted since 2015. The Navy acknowledged in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) that "metals tend to dissociate" in more acidic ocean conditions. The Navy added a reference back to these two sections in the sections analyzing the impacts of explosives (Section 3.1.4.1) and metals (Section 3.1.4.2). Note that corrosion can also act to insulate ordnance and other metal items from contact with seawater and sediments, slowing or even halting further corrosion and movement of metals into the adjacent sediments and water column. The effects of climate change on the ocean environment, particularly effects specific to a particular region like ocean waters in the Pacific Northwest, continue to be researched and to evolve and are not necessarily predictable. For example, as described in Section 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality), increases in ocean acidity are believed to reduce the availability of carbonate in the water column, which is needed by organisms to generate calcium carbonate structures. However, increases in sea surface temperature associated with climate change appear to stimulate calcification at an even greater rate, essentially overriding the inhibiting effects of lower

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		pH levels and leading to unexpected high abundance of coccolithophores (which build protective scales from calcium carbonate) in some ocean regions.
Stenberg-11	<p>TRIBAL CONCERNS</p> <p>The Navy is mandated to work meaningfully with Pacific Coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.</p> <p>Will the SEIS expand prohibited activities in the 50-mile mitigation area to include use of sonar, due to the overwhelming evidence that sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals?</p> <p>Should the "best available science" referenced in the Draft SEIS be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge? Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTT.</p> <p>Will the monitoring program outlined in the SEIS be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels? Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>Will the SEIS expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing?</p> <p>Why isn't the cumulative effect of ocean acidification considered in the SEIS? The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives by products in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</p>	<p>Please see responses to Stenberg-5 through Stenberg-10.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Stenberg-12	<p>COMMON MURRES</p> <p>We here on the Coast are in the middle of a major die off of the Common Murres.</p> <p><a href="https://www.associate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murres-underway-along-the-mendocino-coast/?fbclid=IwAR1jCzAbxz1OsGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVP5f7_uo6vlpJF7Dhvc4A7TSgnI9HVXk">https://www.associate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murres-underway-along-the-mendocino-coast/?fbclid=IwAR1jCzAbxz1OsGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVP5f7_uo6vlpJF7Dhvc4A7TSgnI9HVXk</a></p> <p>According to news reports, “Common murres, little seabirds have been washing up dead by the hundreds of thousands along the shores of Alaska all the way down to San Francisco for the last four years, the reason is thought to be a lack of fish along the west coast. Earlier in 2018, a sea surface sample was the warmest it has been since records began in 1916.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.thebigwobble.org/2019/06/so-far-this-year-at-least-70-gray.html?fbclid=IwAR1S-SDbcPvH8v6U27dhhE41AFNtlwhHbtt0Pc64_HsLTIVGFmEVzZGB44w">http://www.thebigwobble.org/2019/06/so-far-this-year-at-least-70-gray.html?fbclid=IwAR1S-SDbcPvH8v6U27dhhE41AFNtlwhHbtt0Pc64_HsLTIVGFmEVzZGB44w</a></p> <p>The SEIS at 3.6.15 states that the Common Murres were deterred from gillnets by acoustic transmitters. What effect will the solar and explosive activities Stressors outlined in the SEIS have on the Common Murres? Will the SEIS address the major die off of the Common Murres and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation?</p> <p>KELP</p> <p>Should the SEIS address the loss of the kelp forests and abalone and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS that will exacerbate this situation?</p> <p>I see with my own eyes that the Kelp forests are gone so are the abalone.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cencoos.org/about/news/2016/warm-waters-impact-california-kelp-forests">https://www.cencoos.org/about/news/2016/warm-waters-impact-california-kelp-forests</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Sport-Fishing">https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Sport-Fishing</a></p> <p>NATIONAL SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>The Pentagon issued its own finding in 2015 outlining the security effects of Climate Change and issued orders that, all combatant commands integrate climate-related impacts into their planning cycles,</p> <p><a href="https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710/">https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710/</a></p> <p>Even with this Administration’s denial of Climate Change and its effects, the DOD issued a report in January 2019. It states “The effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to Department of Defense, missions, operational plans, and installations. “</p> <p><a href="https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jan/29/2002084200/-1/-1/1/CLIMATE-">https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jan/29/2002084200/-1/-1/1/CLIMATE-</a></p>	Please see response to Stenberg-4.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>CHANGE-REPORT-2019.PDF</p> <p>Will the SEIS address the how the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will contribute to the threat to our national security due to the activities listed in the SEIS that contribute to climate change and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbate this situation?</p> <p>As stated, Climate Change is fluid and getting worse all the time. The draft SEIS does not integrate current climate -related impacts.</p> <p>Will the SEIS update its underlying references that it uses to justify its proposed activities?</p> <p>Ocean heat waves are another problem exacerbated by explosives and SONAR. Will the SEIS address the Ocean heat waves and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbate this situation?</p> <p><a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0412-1">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0412-1</a></p>	
Stenberg-13	<p>Should the SEIS integrate the most current climate -related impacts?</p> <p><a href="https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1-4Y3Z0RLp75gZIJ8vDCFUaNjQPIx4HjKjZ-caPjSUQG64mrXkfJaEjw">https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1-4Y3Z0RLp75gZIJ8vDCFUaNjQPIx4HjKjZ-caPjSUQG64mrXkfJaEjw</a></p> <p>The SEIS details the presence of gray whales in six of the NWTT areas for short periods and claims that the gray whales have “low risk” of being impacted. How much risk is acceptable given NOAA’s Wildlife Emergency?</p> <p>The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that “military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor”. At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that “for the most part,” this material will be incidentally ingested by bottom feeders. Gray Whales are bottom feeders. Given the already stressed gray whale population should the SEIS take this into account?</p> <p><a href="https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/">https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/</a></p>	Please see response to Stenberg-3.
Stenberg-14	<p>GRAY WHALES</p> <p>The SEIS cites a study done in 2008 and 2010 to claim that there are between 17,000 and 20,000 gray whales on the West Coast.</p> <p>Will the SEIS update information and impacts etc. on the current population of Gray whales? See attached SEIS gray whale references in the SEIS dated from 1984-2014</p> <p>Will the SEIS address the 70+(now 77) whale deaths on the West Coast so far this year, that represent only 10% of the actual loss and take in to</p>	Please see response to Stenberg-2.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation? How will the SEIS address the Wildlife Emergency just announced by NOAA?</p> <p><a href="https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/">https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a></p> <p>A recent Study published in January 2019 documents the severe effect sonar has on whales.</p> <p><a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a></p> <p>Scientific studies have shown, without a doubt, that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, 'listening' is as important as 'seeing' is for humans, as they live in a world of water and sound. Noise pollution threatens whale and dolphin populations, interrupting their normal behavior, driving them away from areas important to their survival and at worst injuring or sometimes even causing the deaths of some whales and dolphins.</p> <p>3.4-107 of the SEIS states that Gray whales in Baja abandoned an historical breeding ground due to an increase in noise and shipping activity.</p> <p>Until NOAA's study of the die off on the Gray Whales is complete will disruption of the Ocean by Sonar and Explosive activity as outlined in the SEIS be halted?</p> <p>The SEIS at 3,4-135 acknowledges that Gray whale are slow moving and sometimes exhibit "snorkeling activity," they surface quietly and exhale without of any visible blow.</p> <p>The Navy claims they have lookouts watching for whales before the use of sonar and explosives and are "very unlikely" to have their feeding and migration impacted by the Navy's activities.</p> <p>How will the SEIS take into account this "snorkeling" and fog and rough seas that make it near impossible to spot whales?</p> <p>Noted scientist John Calambokidis, whose' studies are quote through-out the SEIS state recently that, as we experience the effects of climate change on the ocean's food supply, "that as the whales search farther afield for food, they've entered areas where they're not normally seen so often, including San Francisco Bay and Puget Sound."</p> <p><a href="https://989theanswer.com/news/national/feds-to-investigate-spike-in-gray-whale-deaths-on-west-coast">https://989theanswer.com/news/national/feds-to-investigate-spike-in-gray-whale-deaths-on-west-coast</a></p> <p>Will the SEIS take into account that the high gray whale mortality has something to do with their search for food and that they are often found in</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>unlikely areas?</p> <p>As an example, just this week Baird-Beaked whales have been spotted right off the Coast, something that rarely occurs.</p> <p><a href="https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1YUsCsmXzCrOXsIX_5mG7n8l4FgURW10z9HfW67t_2xSi-iBAGDmIoSNo">https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1YUsCsmXzCrOXsIX_5mG7n8l4FgURW10z9HfW67t_2xSi-iBAGDmIoSNo</a></p>	
Stenberg-15	<p>I have lived on the Coast of Mendocino County for almost 40 years. My deck is right above the Ocean on the South Coast of Mendocino. I have seen with my own eyes the dire state our Ocean is in from Climate Change and Pollution.</p> <p>Usually during this time of year, I see, daily, a least two pairs of Mother and calf gray whales swimming close to the coast. This year I haven't seen any.</p> <p>I have attending the Navy's public meetings and a read a lot of the draft SEIS. I don't believe the SEIS accurately states our Ocean's current state and the state of its inhabitants.</p> <p>The Ocean ecosystems are in collapse. Sea creatures are starving. Just in the last months there have been over 70 dead Grey Whales washed ashore on West Coast. How many dead whales are still out there or have been eaten by other creatures?</p> <p>(BTW Since I started this letter last week, news reports have stated that 7 more dead Gray Whales have been found on the West Coast.)</p> <p>Climate Change is fluid and getting worse all the time. It is affecting all ocean species.</p> <p><b>GRAY WHALES</b></p> <p>The SEIS cites a study done in 2008 and 2010 to claim that there are between 17,000 and 20,000 gray whales on the West Coast.</p> <p>Will the SEIS update information and impacts etc. on the current population of Gray whales? See attached SEIS gray whale references in the SEIS dated from 1984-2014</p> <p>Will the SEIS address the 70+(now 77) whale deaths on the West Coast so far this year, that represent only 10% of the actual loss and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation? How will the SEIS address the Wildlife Emergency just announced by NOAA?</p> <p><a href="https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/">https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a></p>	Please see response to Stenberg-2.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>A recent Study published in January 2019 documents the severe effect sonar has on whales.  <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a>  Scientific studies have shown, without a doubt, that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, 'listening' is as important as 'seeing' is for humans, as they live in a world of water and sound. Noise pollution threatens whale and dolphin populations, interrupting their normal behavior, driving them away from areas important to their survival and at worst injuring or sometimes even causing the deaths of some whales and dolphins.  3.4-107 of the SEIS states that Gray whales in Baja abandoned an historical breeding ground due to an increase in noise and shipping activity.  Until NOAA's study of the die off on the Gray Whales is complete will disruption of the Ocean by Sonar and Explosive activity as outlined in the SEIS be halted?  The SEIS at 3.4-135 acknowledges that Gray whale are slow moving and sometimes exhibit "snorkeling activity," they surface quietly and exhale without of any visible blow.  The Navy claims they have lookouts watching for whales before the use of sonar and explosives and are "very unlikely" to have their feeding and migration impacted by the Navy's activities.  How will the SEIS take into account this "snorkeling" and fog and rough seas that make it near impossible to spot whales?  Noted scientist John Calambokidis, whose' studies are quote through-out the SEIS state recently that, as we experience the effects of climate change on the ocean's food supply, "that as the whales search farther afield for food, they've entered areas where they're not normally seen so often, including San Francisco Bay and Puget Sound."  <a href="https://989theanswer.com/news/national/feds-to-investigate-spike-in-gray-whale-deaths-on-west-coast">https://989theanswer.com/news/national/feds-to-investigate-spike-in-gray-whale-deaths-on-west-coast</a>  Will the SEIS take into account that the high gray whale mortality has something to do with their search for food and that they are often found in unlikely areas?  As an example, just this week Baird-Beaked whales have been spotted right off the Coast, something that rarely occurs.  <a href="https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1YUsCsmXzCrOXsIX_5mG7n8l4FgURW10z9HfW67t_2xSi-iBAGDmIoSNo">https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-monterey-whale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1YUsCsmXzCrOXsIX_5mG7n8l4FgURW10z9HfW67t_2xSi-iBAGDmIoSNo</a></p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Should the SEIS integrate the most current climate -related impacts?  <a href="https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-montereywhale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1-4Y3ZORLp7SgZIJ8vDCFUaUjQPIx4HjKjZ-caPjSUQG64mrXkfJaEjw">https://www.sfgate.com/whales-sharks/article/bairds-beaked-whales-montereywhale-watching-rare-13922815.php?fbclid=IwAR1-4Y3ZORLp7SgZIJ8vDCFUaUjQPIx4HjKjZ-caPjSUQG64mrXkfJaEjw</a>  The SEIS details the presence of gray whales in six of the NWT areas for short periods and claims that the gray whales have "low risk" of being impacted. How much risk is acceptable given NOAA's Wildlife Emergency? The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that "military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor". At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that "for the most part," this material will be incidentally ingested by bottom feeders. Gray Whales are bottom feeders. Given the already stressed gray whale population should the SEIS take this into account?  <a href="https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-deadwhales-germany-animals/">https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-deadwhales-germany-animals/</a>  <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/</a>  <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnantwhale-plastic-italy/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnantwhale-plastic-italy/</a>  COMMON MURRES  We here on the Coast are in the middle of a major die off of the Common Murres. <a href="https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murresunderway-a-long-the-mendocinocoast/?fbclid=IwARljCzAbxz10sGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVPSf7uo6vlpjF7Dhvc4A7TSgnl9HVXk">https://www.advocate-news.com/2019/05/24/major-die-off-of-common-murresunderway-a-long-the-mendocinocoast/?fbclid=IwARljCzAbxz10sGgCxiUWjmWiUqMVPSf7uo6vlpjF7Dhvc4A7TSgnl9HVXk</a>  According to news reports, "Common murres, little seabirds have been washing up dead by the hundreds of thousands along the shores of Alaska all the way down to San Francisco for the last four years, the reason is thought to be a lack of fish along the west coast. Earlier in 2018, a sea surface sample was the warmest it has been since records began in 1916."  <a href="http://www.thebigwobble.org/2019/06/so-far-this-year-at-least-70-gray.html?fbclid=IwARlSSDbcPvH8v6U27dhbE41AFNtlwhHbttOPc64HsLTIVGFmEVzZGB44w">http://www.thebigwobble.org/2019/06/so-far-this-year-at-least-70-gray.html?fbclid=IwARlSSDbcPvH8v6U27dhbE41AFNtlwhHbttOPc64HsLTIVGFmEVzZGB44w</a>  The SEIS at 3.6.15 states that the Common Murres were deterred from gillnets by acoustic transmitters. What effect will the solar and explosive activities Stressors outlined in the SEIS have on the Common Murres? Will the SEIS address the major die off of the Common Murres and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation?  KELP</p>	



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Should the SEIS address the loss of the kelp forests and abalone and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS that will exacerbate this situation?</p> <p>I see with my own eyes that the Kelp forests are gone so are the abalone.  <a href="https://www.cencoos.org/about/news/2016/warm-waters-impact-californiakelp-forests">https://www.cencoos.org/about/news/2016/warm-waters-impact-californiakelp-forests</a>  <a href="https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Sport-Fishing">https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Sport-Fishing</a>            NATIONAL SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE            The Pentagon issued its own finding in 2015 outlining the security effects of Climate Change and issued orders that, all combatant commands integrate climate-related impacts into their planning cycles,  <a href="https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710/">https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710/</a>            Even with this Administration's denial of Climate Change and its effects, the DOD issued a report in January 2019. It states "The effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to Department of Defense, missions, operational plans, and installations."  <a href="https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jan/29/2002084200/-1/-1/1/CLIMATE-CHANGEREPORT-2019.PDF">https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jan/29/2002084200/-1/-1/1/CLIMATE-CHANGEREPORT-2019.PDF</a>            Will the SEIS address the how the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will contribute to the threat to our national security due to the activities listed in the SEIS that contribute to climate change and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbate this situation?            As stated, Climate Change is fluid and getting worse all the time. The draft SEIS does not integrate current climate -related impacts.            Will the SEIS update its underlying references that it uses to justify its proposed activities?            Ocean heat waves are another problem exacerbated by explosives and SONAR. Will the SEIS address the Ocean heat waves and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbate this situation?  <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0412-1">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0412-1</a>            TRIBAL CONCERNS            The Navy is mandated to work meaningfully with Pacific Coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities.            Will the SEIS expand prohibited activities in the SO-mile mitigation area to include use of sonar, due to the overwhelming evidence that sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals?</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Should the "best available science" referenced in the Draft SEIS be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge? Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTT.</p> <p>Will the monitoring program outlined in the SEIS be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels? Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species.</p> <p>Will the SEIS expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing?</p> <p>Why isn't the cumulative effect of ocean acidification considered in the SEIS? The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives by products in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</p>	
Stephens-1	Please do not do the under water sonar testing. We are in a climate crisis and have endangered our oceans enough. Do not endanger it more.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Stermer-1	Please don't do it	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Stevick-1	Orcas deserve our protection. We aren't fighting in a war and there is no need for sonar that hurts the marine life in the Salish Sea, or any body of water. There won't be a public to protect if climate change destroys the earth and most of its inhabitants. The US navy should help protect these endangered animals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Stewart-1	The testing that the Navy is engaging in is completely unacceptable. As a United States citizen I would like to enter my objection and complete outrage at the tests that are taking place and am demanding that this stops. Our sea life depends on their hearing for navigation, hunting and their livelihood. This testing is an act of violence and should be considered a weapon of mass destruction. This type of misuse of power is unacceptable. I beg you as a US citizen to cease and desist these tests. Please think of our future on this planet, and stop this outrageous practice immediately.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Stiles-1	Please immediately cease and desist from traumatizing marine life. It is not acceptable to disturb the peace of precious aquatic animals. You're testing is intrusive and cruel. You must urgently find another way to enagage yourself in this capacity. Please understand and reevaluate your mindset, purpose and values when you cause harm to our precious ecosystem.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Stillman-1	Dear Madam or Sir: I have reviewed the U.S. Navy's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities conducted within the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) study area. Simply put, it's a disaster. The Navy cannot go forward with its proposed activities in Washington state and elsewhere on the basis of this deeply flawed DSEIS. Those activities include use of aircraft (including Growlers), explosive practice munitions and ordnance, high-explosive underwater detonations,	The noise model used, MR_Nmap uses state of the art science and is the appropriate method to evaluate aircraft noise in special use airspace such as the Olympic MOA. This model is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses. The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety). The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>electromagnetic devices, high-energy lasers, high- and very high-frequency active sonar, weapons systems, underwater vehicles, and others.</p> <p>The failure of the DSEIS must result in a rejection of the Navy's plans to turn the beautiful and pristine areas of the Salish Sea into a war zone that will do irreparable harm to numerous marine mammals, including the Orca whales that are already at great risk due to other environmental challenges. The Navy, if unfettered by adherence to environmental requirements, would expand dramatically the air combat maneuvers, submarine tracking and detection exercises, electronic warfare practice, mine training, torpedo testing, and other activities.</p> <p>As you should know, many marine animals locate food, navigate, and avoid predators by relying on sound to communicate. The range of activities proposed by the Navy would result in intense, repeated exposure to sonar that will harm the ability of whales and other marine life to hear sounds needed for their survival.</p> <p>The Navy plan is a death sentence for Orca whales. And for many other marine mammals, such as porpoises.</p> <p>Noise from the proposed huge expansion of Navy warfare activities in the Northwest also will harm humans. Let me describe that and some of the other most obvious problems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The frequency, duration, and intensity of Growler flights are threats to public health because of the deafening and toxic noise they produce.</li> <li>2. Aircraft noise levels included in the Navy's DEIS are wrong. They are generated by an outdated and flawed computer model.</li> <li>3. Children exposed to loud noise show impaired cognition, delayed development, decreased reading comprehension, and memory loss. Growler noise from Coupeville to the San Juan Islands show damaging levels of up to 115 decibels.</li> <li>4. Growler engines emit low-frequency pressure waves that penetrate body organs and can cause medical problems.</li> <li>5. The Growler's F-18 airframe is one of the most accident-prone in existence. There have been 22 crashes of the EA-18G and F/A-18 E,F that have occurred since 2000. Increased Growler flights further endanger schools, hospitals, homes, parks/playgrounds, and businesses/residences located in the potential Growler crash zones.</li> <li>6. Many of the areas affected by the Navy's proposed warfare activities are those that depend on tourism—particularly the San Juan Islands and the Olympic Peninsula. If the Navy is allowed to turn these areas into a giant military staging ground, the tourism industry will be crippled.</li> </ol>	<p>Resources). Regarding aircraft mishaps, non-anticipated accidents or emergencies are not included in the NEPA analysis.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>7. Outdoor recreation in my area of Washington state helps to create 199,000 jobs and is valued at \$21.6 billion—far, far more than the contribution of the military to our economy. Jobs in Washington depend on its pristine skies, land, and waters.</p> <p>8. Farmers will be harmed by the Navy's proposals. Growlers fly at low altitudes during landing practices and their toxic particulates fill our air, fall into waters, and drift down to our soils. Healthy food cannot grow on acreage exposed to constant pollution from above, which is why California—with strict clean air regulations—prohibits such maneuvers.</p> <p>9. The average annual commercial value for Puget Sound crab, shrimp, mussel, oyster, geoduck, and clams is \$44 million. Recreational shell fishing is valued at \$42 million per year. Recreational fishing in Puget Sound at \$57 million. Additional noise and pollution from more military jets pose a threat to these sectors so crucial to Washington state.</p> <p>10. The Salish Sea is bordered by 8 national parks and 68 state parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, and public lands. These assets help drive about \$9.5 billion in travel spending, including support for 88,000 tourist-related jobs that bring \$3 billion to the region.</p> <p>11. The proposed increase in Growler flights will add about 60,000 metric tons of additional carbon dioxide—further worsening climate change. The increased Growler flights will speed ocean acidification and harm coral reefs, shellfish, and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>Finally, because I am not a scientist, I wish to endorse the comments made by the experts at the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals which were submitted to you on April 15, 2019 by Dr. Peter O. Thomas.</p>	
Stockel-1	I truly believe the Navy should be allowed to go forward with their training. They are a vital part of our country's defense system. To stop them because it might damage the hearing of a few ocean animals, if they are even around, really does not make any sense to me. Are there reports of this taking place in other regions where they have conducted tests? I have not heard of any.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.
Stokor-1	This has got to stop now	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Stoll-1	<p>Sound is one of the most, if not the most, invasive and intense of underwater physical perturbations. Sound travels far faster, further and in higher intensities in water than in air. Sound is especially intense in the lower frequencies. In underwater environments there is very little sound.....other than anthropogenic.</p> <p>A number of marine species depend on sound in a number of ways. In some marine species certain sounds creates a predator avoidance response. In others sound is generated to locate prey. This later is the case in various orca populations are native to the waters where sonar testing is proposed. This also where salmonid populations Orca prey on, specifically chinook salmon, are becoming increasingly limited. This is of very high concern amongst regulatory and natural resource agencies, and user groups especially including commercial fishers, tribes, and anglers. Per the Navy's own studies (eg: during the Everett pier construction) salmonids were shown to have strong sound avoidance behaviors.</p> <p>While the Navy purports to be the experts in the field of effects of sound on some marine species, the fact is that overall very little is known about the scope and breadth of underwater sound effects on underwater ecosystems and the species that inhabit them.</p> <p>Especially considering the delicate state of some Orca populations, including southern residents, the Navy should avoid all underwater sonar testing in areas where these animals occur. The Navy should also consider eliminating in-situ sonar testing and rely on models to replicate the same. Natural resource decisions should be made on What we do not know, rather than what some individuals or agencies think they know.</p> <p>But I am aware this is not likely to happen. I am also aware that the Navy appears to to me to use the NEPA/SEPA process to justify decisions already made. In this case, the Navy is going to do underwater sonar testing in the designated nearshore marine areas where the number of species potentially affected by sound occur, regardless. The EIS process is a very expensive way to check a regulatory box.</p> <p>And how much did this particular EIS/OEIS process cost?</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Stone D-1	<p>I believe that all the training exercises should be conducted with consideration given to marine animals, local habitats, human communities, and local wildlife. In other words, whales should not suffer in these exercises. All exercises that impact the economy of local communities should be re-located.</p> <p>I am not a scientist so cannot include supporting details and studies. However, I am a U.S. citizen whose life quality and economy will be</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	impacted by these activities. Surely, the lives of local citizens are important to the Navy. If not, they should be. And I consider these comments substantive.	With this in mind, wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as wildlife viewing, or whale watching, are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.
Stone S-1	Virtually everyday since moving to my land 28 yrs ago the noise of planes has been a very unpleasant fact of life. It is now with the Growlers so awful I'm no longer able to do many of life's pleasures or use my property as I envisioned. No gardening no BBQs w/ family little sleep regardless of ear protection. The constant ringing in my ears. The intense compression I feel on my chest if caught outside during a flyover. The fear of my water and air's integrity and my health. You don't protect me as a taxpayer you assault me and my family and devalue my investment in my land. My state's beautiful natural beauty is diminished from the enemy I am required to support. Sad and angry	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a>
Stone S-2	I suppose I could labor all the reasons why destroying one of the truly unique places on the planet is wrong but of course your answer is we aren't changing it that much. The govt will scrow all the studies and reasons why I should welcome this change. But I have been here before through a vast array of studies and promises. Now I deal with contaminated water air and ground and deafening sound.. So I simply will say NO NO NO. Don't save me from a unknown enemy I'm full up, you the Navy and govt have become the true enemy of all I hold dear and love...NO NO NO	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Stover-1	Please create a 100 mile wide corridor that is test free along the Pacific coast's grey whale migration route. We can't afford to endanger these animals that produce such awe in on lookers and are a substantive part of our coastal economy. Thank you.	The Navy's mitigation involves numerous distance-from-shore restrictions for active sonar, explosive, and non-explosive training and testing activities. For example, the Navy will not conduct explosive training or explosive testing (except explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing) 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. For the Final

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy developed several new mitigation measures, including development a new mitigation area known as the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area. It would not be practical for the Navy to prohibit all training or testing activities within 100 miles from shore for the reasons described in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), Chapter 5 (Mitigation), and Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Stover-2	<p>I find the assessment regarding marine mammals in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS that, "long term consequences for the species or stocks could not be expected" highly questionable. "Scientists have linked military sonar and live-fire activities to mass whale beaching, exploded eardrums and even death." -Center for Biological Diversity 2018. These findings are also reported in Scientific American and corroborated by many respected scientists.</p> <p>NOAA has recently declared elevated gray whale deaths along the west coast of North America in 2019 an "Unusual Mortality Event" (UME) requiring more research. This call for research is new, and has not yet been completed or incorporated into the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>How will the Navy guarantee that "long term consequences for the species or stocks" of gray whales "could not be expected" in any of the Alternatives, given the recent gray whale UME and the need for more research?</p> <p>How will the Navy guarantee that the stocks of other marine mammals including those on the protected list, will not be significantly reduced when the gray whales are already showing signs of distress?</p> <p>The Mendocino Coast has an economy that depends on tourism. Much of our attraction is due to the 20,000 whales migrating off shore, leading to whale festivals, whale watching tours and related services. Naval testing anywhere along the migration route from Mexico to Alaska, could effect the migration, and harm other marine species we rely on.</p> <p>How will the Navy guarantee that there will not be a loss of much needed revenue in this rural community, due to a disruption in the fragile ecosystem of our coastal waters and the possible diminishment of migrating ocean mammals due to sonar or live-fire testing?</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as wildlife viewing, or whale watching, are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.</p>
Strasserfoc-1	Focus on useful topics instead of hurting animals again and again. Your initiative leads only to disorientation.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Stringer-1	While training is important, it should not impact wildlife or people trying to enjoy life. This is especially true when a species is at risk and now with trump that people need a respite from his lying, saying random sex is okay, having sex traffickers as friends, and defying congress, as well as having putin and kimmy as besties! I consider john McCain a hero, not atraitor,or weakling who got caught, he wasn't stealing halloween candy! Omg How about flying farther out to sea, or conducting practice in the red states, they do not seem-to care about noise or the enviroment, or anomals in enviroment. And they just love guns and explosions. My dad was a navy man, he always said guns belong on ships, some of those states have lakes and planes can fly farther now! Somove east is my conclusion!	The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Stroble-1	When these planes fly low overhead to practice touch-downs, the noise is unbelievable and must be experienced to truly appreciate. It is far more than citizens should be expected to endure. It makes your chest clench, your ears ring, and your whole body vibrate. These body responses actually last well beyond the time of exposure. Furthermore, the intrusion seems to go for endless lengths of time and often late into the nite. Unless the noise factor can be overcome thru advanced technology, these "touch and go" exercises must be ended, or practiced at the Oak Harbor base itself where people seem to accept the punishment.	The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island or OLF Coupeville. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a>
Strong-1	Please stop this invasive and extremely harmful testing which causes hearing lots and damage to the echo location ability of these beautiful cetaceans.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Strong-Petersen-1	The Navy should NOT perform any sonar testing anywhere in the Salish Sea. Our Orcas are deafened by this activity and subsequently cannot find food. They are now protected, and should be from these types of activities too. Please consider terminating this practice immediately.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Stuart C-1	This letter is being written to tell you that I hope you will not continue to do testing in our oceans. I say this because of the life that is being lost due to the testing. It's their home .... they have no other place to go. As it is, we have taken so much of their world away from them already. And we need the oceans and the life that it supports. If we kill off all the fish and mammals... it's all over. The testing is bad for living things. Show some compassion to living things and stop torturing them. Enough of the testing already.... please stop it.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Stuart P-1	Save the sea lives of the Orcas and other sea life.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Stubblefield-1	This proposal is barbaric and thoughtless. This is predetermined terrorism on some of the most intelligent creatures on this planet. Not enough thought or research has been conducted to know the long term effects on these creatures as well as the unintentional effects on us humans because of this testing. I urge you to push back the decision and give more time to hear scientists out and try to understand why this is such a wreck less decision being hastily made.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Sturm-1	Stop that!!! Please....!!!!!! We need the seas and the Individuums in there....	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Styles-1	<p>I believe the proposed Northwest Training and Testing program will have a disastrous impact on marine mammals, due to the severe and excessive sound levels involved. At a time when orcas and other northwestern marine mammals are critically endangered, the acoustic trauma presented by this proposal is unconscionable.</p> <p>The EIS states that hundreds of endangered humpback whales can be expected to experience temporary hearing loss, as well as 100,000 porpoises. This is simply unacceptable. I understand the importance of training, but we have to find a better way. We cannot protect ourselves by destroying the world around us.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Su-1	<p>hi, I just saw the video regarding the sonars testing, it's really hard to watch and my heart is broken. It's not a simple weapon test but a way of killing the whales. Would u pls put the shoots into those lovely beings, what if u r them! Would u pls have more compassion as a good and kind heart human being? Pls stop those testing I, it is do nothing good but hurting, not just those marines beings, actually you are hurting yourself. They r part of you, they r the reflection of your inside. Think about it, use your heart to feel.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Subjeck-1	You are Crazy to think to release these contaminants in our waters, or any! This is a terrible idea and is destructive and irresponsible to the wildlife and the environment. I oppose this!What are you thinking???	<p>Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.</p> <p>Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p>
Sugo-1	<p>Please STOP all sonar testing - most urgently those in the Pacific Northwest, affecting the critically endangered southern resident orca. Sonar testing has been proven to be harmful to whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals.</p> <p>There is video evidence circulating on social media of the southern residents swimming away from Navy sonar. In their already fragile state, this additional threat makes survival even more difficult for them.</p> <p>A 2016 study published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology estimated that 11,233 harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters, not including the critically endangered 76 Southern Resident Orcas. Researcher John Calombokidis said, "For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival." Over 7 years, harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters would likely experience temporary hearing loss at some frequencies at least 95,943 times from sonar, according to the Navy's calculations. Sonar would cause the porpoises permanent hearing loss at 1,033 times and a "behavioral reaction" (anything from a distraction to prolonged fleeing from sound ) at 101,377 times. Please halt sonar testing!</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Sullivan E-1	Any further impact on already-stressed marine animals in the Salish Sea is completely unacceptable. It must stop. Our future is in your hands.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Sullivan N-1	I am vehemently opposed to this proposed action! Increased sonar activity is bad enough, but blasting!!! We've already threatened too many species with intrusive and destructive technology. Today's news reported a dolphin species with 20 individuals left! 20! They are expected to be extinct by July! Go back to the books!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sullivan R-1	I recently received a letter from Senator Patti Murray in relation to the noise pollution of the Growlers in which she suggested that the Navy and the community compromise on this issue. However, I have seen nothing from the Navy that would suggest even the hint of compromise. They have exponentially increased their flights, are flying at five a.m. and nine p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays. I cannot walk on Cappy's Trails for more than fifteen minutes without having my ear canals negatively affected by the sonic booms of the Growlers. This is a recreation area and a tourist town, not an annex of a testing zone for Navy pilots. Please have the Growlers fly east into the empty regions of Eastern Washington or move them to a Pacific atoll where they belong. By the way, this has absolutely nothing to do with respect for the military: my father, grandfather and great grandfather served in the military; it has to with respect for civilians. Right now I feel as if I'm the subject of a bizarre form of aural punishment. Desist!	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces, have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977.</p> <p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers.</li> </ol>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		Far more training events than involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.
Summer-Reiger-1	The Navy seems to be intent on destroying the peace in and around the Salish Sea. While I am a patriotic citizen and support our military, this menacing and oblivious flight traffic and accompanying noise seems to be flying in the face of protecting both the land and communities of this vast area. The impacts are only expanding. If the public were experiencing this in any kind of commercial context, there would be mitigating measures, at the least. If our country is going to war, please let us know. It certainly feels like we are under threat.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Suratt-1	I oppose Navy testing along our coast as it is harmful to sea life, especially whales and other sea creatures that rely on sonar for communication. It is dangerous to all sea life and can cause disorientation and death. Noise pollution at its worst. Scientists say there is still much to be learned about how much sonar activity affects marine animals. Studies have shown some species such as grey whales can be adversely affected.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Susan-1	THE DELETERIOUS AND LETHAL EFFECTS OF SONAR ON MARINE MAMMALS ARE WELL DOCUMENTED. THE NAVY MUST NOT TEST SONAR AND WEAPONS ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST'S WHALE MIGRATORY PATH. THE NAVY MUST LEAVE A 100-MILE WIDE TEST-FREE CORRIDOR ALONG THE ENTIRE PACIFIC COAST NOT ONLY FOR GRAY WHALE BUT ALSO FOR HUMPBACK AND BLUE WHALE MIGRATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE YEAR.	The Navy's mitigation involves numerous distance-from-shore restrictions for active sonar, explosive, and non-explosive training and testing activities. For example, the Navy will not conduct explosive training or explosive testing (except explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing) 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. For the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy developed several new mitigation measures, including development a new mitigation area known as the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area. It would not be practical for the Navy to prohibit all training or testing activities within 100 miles from shore for the reasons described in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), Chapter 5 (Mitigation), and Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
Swank-1	The damage done by such testing would be profound and immeasurable. Please put an end to these practices that damage living things in numbers too vast to count.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Sweeney-1	Sir: I have lived here on Whidbey Island for over 30 years. During that time I have felt the Navy and the citizens of the Whidbey had a good relationship. Unfortunately the noise now has become a dividing line between a once good relationship. A few adjustments on both sides need to be made. Plane practice over the desert- citizens accepting some noise could help greatly. Please work with the citizens of Whidbey Island not against us-We All Love The USA. Frances Sweeney	The activities proposed in the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a>
Sweigart-1	I am 100% against the underwater sonar testing that very obviously will cause harm to many sea animals. It is cruel. Please reconsider this testing.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Swift-1	Our oceans and it's inhabitants are suffering due to humans. The testing that is being done is not only distressing and harmful to these innocent beings but it is also cruel and unnecessary. Their senses are much higher than ours. The pain they must feel when sonar testing is done must be unimaginable at best even for the majority that can even feel empathy. I like many activist and conservationists implore you to stop this and to take into consideration the harm you are causing.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Syltebo-1	Our whales are dying! We need to stop all this testing to stop. Many marine animals rely on sound to communicate, locate food, avoid predators and navigate. Exposure to sound could change their behavior, said John Calambokidis, a research biologist and founder of Cascadia Research Collective.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Intense or repeated exposure to certain frequencies of sonar could also affect animals' ability to hear sounds in those ranges.	Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Sylvester-1	If you know how harmful this testing is how can you continue! The ocean needs help with preservation not more destruction! These cessation whale dolphins all creatures of the sea don't need you causing more peril! Please stop this sonar blasting! It is plane arrogance	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Szurek-1	I AM COMPLETELY AGAINST THE SONAR TESTING BEING DONE IN THE SALISH SEA THAT IS DIRECTLY IMPACTING THE WILDLIFE IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS, ESPECIALLY THE SOUTHERN RESIDENT ORCAS. THE SONAR TESTING IS EXTREMELY CRUEL AND INCONSIDERATE TREATMENT TO THE WILDLIFE. THIS SONAR TESTING ABSOLUTELY NEEDS TO STOP NOW!!!! THESE TESTS SHOULD NOT BE DONE PERIOD. THERE IS NOT A SINGLE PLACE IN THE OCEAN OR IN ANY BODY OF WATER FOR THESE TESTS. I AM DISAPPOINTED IN HUMANITY. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY SICKENING.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
<b>T</b>		
Taifour-1	Dumping materials in Puget Sound is completely unacceptable. Our salmon runs are down, orcas are dying, waters are too polluted for swimming. It is completely unconscionable that the military or any government agency, or any party for that matter, should dump ANY materials in waterways when more appropriate, safer, and less damaging options are available.	The Navy's proposed activities do not include dumping of any materials. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Talman-1	Stop flying their Growlers, some of the loudest jets, over one of the quietest paces, the Hoh Rain Forest. You need to assess their jet noise over the northern tier of Olympic National Park (Lake Crescent. Hurricane Ridge	The Navy has expanded the noise analysis to include the transit of aircraft to and from the Olympic MOA.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>areas) as Growlers transit between their Whidbey Island air base and their official military airspace over the west side of the Olympics: they haven't considered that. Consider and move to other places for the Growler's training: there are lots of airbases around the country which do not impact national parks.</p> <p>On-site monitoring of aircraft overflights, rather than modeling, is needed to truly evaluate impacts on people and wildlife in Olympic National Park. The aircraft sound information in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS unrealistically minimizes the jet noise levels and frequency of overflights park visitors are already experiencing. We experience the same noise levels in Western Skagit County and Fidalgo and Whidbey islands. National Parks are, by law, to be preserved in their natural condition. The law does not exempt the Navy. The law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1916 establishing the National Park Service states that the agency's purpose is to, "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (<a href="https://home.nps.gov/pipe/learn/management/nps-organic-act-of-1916.htm">https://home.nps.gov/pipe/learn/management/nps-organic-act-of-1916.htm</a>) Noise from Growler overflights which degrade the natural conditions of Olympic National Park are not exempt from this act. It is highly inappropriate, and arguably illegal, to establish a "Military Operations Area" in whole or part over a national park. There are surely other places that the Navy could carry out its important training and equipment testing. These activities do not need to happen over or near a national park.</p> <p>The Navy's training and testing activities are incompatible with the protection of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary extends 25 to 50 miles seaward of the coastal area of Olympic National Park. As shown on the map at <a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/About-the-Study-Area#/images/3">https://www.nwtteis.com/About-the-Study-Area#/images/3</a>, the Navy's Northwest Training and Testing Study Area appears to overlap this Congressionally established Sanctuary in its entirety. As vividly described in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, a wide variety of weapons are tested here involving the use of various ships and aircraft, live ammunition, and explosives: yet we are urged to see the likely impact to marine mammals, birds, and other living things as very minimal. In numerous places in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS we read that the reason for choosing the Olympic Peninsula and its offshore waters, as well as various locations in the Salish Sea/Puget Sound, for naval testing and training is that it is convenient and</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	will save transit money. There are many Navy bases in Puget Sound, and it's convenient to train in the nearest part of the Pacific Ocean and over the mountainous and shoreline terrain of the peninsula. No argument is made for why the Navy's convenience preempts the protection of a premier National Park and a Marine Sanctuary, both established by Congress for preservation in perpetuity for the benefit of the American public. Navy testing and training can be done away from national parks and other protected areas.	environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.  <sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015. <sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.
Talman-2	The Supplemental EIS/OEIS fails to include a reasonable range of alternatives. The scale and complexity of the activities which the EIS/OEIS examines are massive, yet only 3 alternatives are examined: a continuation of the present testing and training with some additions (e.g. more Growler flights), a continuation with a greater increase in activity, and the required no action alternative, which would mean a cessation of training and testing in the study area. That these changes would be inconvenient or more expensive for the Navy are not sufficient reasons for not including such an alternative. Environmental Impact Statements are to examine a range of reasonable alternatives. There is no alternative that looks at avoiding overflights of Olympic National Park, for example, and restricting water-based activities to areas outside the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, which in this case would certainly include more than the three presented. At the very least, the Navy should design a solid, scientifically-based plan for eliminating or severely limiting negative impacts of aircraft overflights to Olympic National Park visitors and wildlife.	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training farther from NAS Whidbey Island, either farther at sea or at other land training areas was considered and rejected. Additionally, the Olympic MOA is desirable for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure, environmental conditions that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness, and other factors stated in 2.5.1.1.  The Navy complied with NEPA requirements in the development and consideration of alternatives. The Alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need (see Section 1.4, Purpose of and Need for Proposed Military Readiness Training and Testing Activities) to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under Title 10. See Section 2.4 (Action Alternative Development) for more detailed information on the development of alternatives.
Talman-3	The Supplemental EIS/OEIS fails to address all potential areas of negative impact in Olympic National Park. To fly from Whidbey Naval Air Station to the Military Operations Area (MOA), Growlers pass over other parts of Olympic National Park. yet potential impacts in those areas, including such heavily visited year-round sites as Hurricane Ridge, are not examined. The EIS/OEIS only looks at impacts in the part of the park below the MOA. The study of sound which the National Park Service did in the park in 2010 (Olympic National Park Acoustic Monitoring Winter 2010 Natural Resource Report	The Navy has expanded the noise analysis to include the transit of aircraft to and from the Olympic MOA.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	NPS/NRSS/NSNSD\NRR-2016/1310) found that Hurricane Ridge, beaches on the outer coast, the Hoh Rain Forest, and all other areas measured had very low levels of aircraft noise. Navy operations are already changing that condition and will increasingly do so unless there is mitigation to avoid degradation of the national park.	
Talman-4	<p>The proposed mitigation related to Marbled Murrelets at sea is inadequate. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS notes that the Marbled Murrelet is listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. (We would add that because of its precipitous population decline in Washington State, this species is listed under state law as endangered, which is not mentioned in the EIS/OEIS.) The EIS/OEIS states that murrelets in the marine environment where they forage could be affected by such Navy activities as testing and training with live ordnance. There is a vivid list of the harm which underwater explosions can do to the physiology of a Marbled Murrelet (p. 3.6-56): "Marbled murrelets would be exposed to explosives during mine countermeasure and neutralization testing proposed in the Offshore Area, and existing mine warfare areas in Inland Waters (i.e., Crescent Harbor and Hood Canal Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Ranges).... In Inland Waters, marbled murrelets have an increased likelihood of exposure. Marbled murrelets exposed to underwater explosions may be subject to lethal or non-lethal injuries. Non-lethal injuries may include scarred or ruptured eardrums, or gastrointestinal tract lesions."</p> <p>The related mitigation plan calls for having a single on-board observer watching for marbled murrelets and, when spotting one, calling a stop to the training or testing activity (e.g. at 5.3.2.2 Weapons Firing Noise" on p. 5-24 ). As birders experienced with observing murrelets off Skagit County shorelines from land, we know how difficult it is to spot this 9.75" long, cryptically-colored, low-profile bird when it is on water anything other than very calm. To do so while using binoculars on a boat that is rocking or underway is especially difficult. From our own experience, we are skeptical that a single observer under typical conditions can effectively and consistently spot Marbled Murrelets on the water. Some more realistic form of mitigation needs to be devised; better yet, this type of potentially highly disruptive weapons training and testing should not take place anywhere near murrelet foraging or resting areas.</p> <p>Speculation about habituation is no substitute for careful study and consideration of cumulative effects on listed species. To speculate that one more stressor in the bird's environment is just another inconsequential</p>	<p>The Navy consulted with USFWS under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to address potential impacts to marbled murrelets with implementation of the preferred alternative. Discussions about the level of benefit of the Navy's mitigation measures are presented throughout Section 5.3 (Procedural Mitigation to be Implemented) and Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment). The Navy will implement procedural mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from applicable acoustic, explosive, and physical disturbance and strike stressors on marine and bird species wherever and whenever activities occur in the Study Area. In addition to procedural mitigation, the Navy developed mitigation areas to further avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, and fish in important habitat areas. For example, the Navy will restrict all but one type of explosive activity from occurring within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area year-round, which will help the Navy avoid potential impacts from explosives on marbled murrelets in important foraging areas.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>thing for the bird to get used to makes a mockery of the EIS process and the Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>There is insufficient information to evaluate whether Navy aircraft overflights will negatively affect Marbled Murrelet nesting success and fledgling survival in and near Olympic National Park.</p> <p>The Supplemental EIS/OEIS depicts Navy jet flight paths over the Olympic Peninsula as being so high above ground level that the noise the planes generate will be at most a minor disturbance to birds such as the Marbled Murrelet. It should be noted that the flight path of murrelets from the marine waters where they forage to their nest sites is not always low and along river courses but can involve flying high enough to clear passes at 5,000 or more feet elevation. Murrelets are known to do this in transiting from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Hoh River Valley in Olympic National Park, for example. Pertinent to this point is the footnote in section 3.6: "Note: MOA = Military Operating Area. The Olympic MOAs overlay both land and sea (extending to 3 nautical miles off the Washington coast) and include areas above 6,000 ft. Mean Sea Level but below 1,200 ft. above ground level at the higher terrain elevations of the mountains.")</p> <p>Thus, the proximity of aircraft and the impact of noise from jets such as the Growler are potentially much more severe than described in the EIS/OEIS. The temporary disturbance from aircraft noise which the EIS/OEIS acknowledges could, in the case of the Marbled Murrelet, readily result in nesting failure. The murrelet's single chick leads a precarious existence in its moss bed atop a high, old growth branch. A chick once startled from the nest and fallen to the forest floor is unable to recover. The same is true during the fledgling's first flight, when it must succeed in reaching marine waters as much as 50 miles distant or die on the forest floor. The rapidly declining state of this species in Washington calls for greater caution in adding to the stress it is already under.</p> <p>There is insufficient information to state that Navy aircraft overflights will not jeopardize Spotted Owls in and near Olympic National Park. Like the Marbled Murrelet, the Spotted Owl is in serious decline in Washington. Adding stressors in its environment should not be done without carefully targeted studies rather than simply extrapolating from the very limited and not particularly applicable available science.</p>	
Talman-5	<p>The Supplemental EIS/OEIS gives little or no attention to wildlife species listed under state but not federal law as endangered. Although the Tufted Puffin is not listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, under Washington State law this seabird is listed as endangered. The EIS/OEIS</p>	<p>The Supplemental EIS/OEIS includes an analysis of potential impacts to marine birds found in the NWTT Study Area. The Navy has consulted with USFWS on Federally protected species, including diving birds such as the</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	mentions the species in one place only (Table 3.6-2: Representative Birds of the Northwest Training and Testing Study Area) and gives no attention to how Navy testing and training off the Olympic Coast will affect this iconic bird on its island nesting grounds or where it forages on the open water. It should also be mentioned that while the EIS/OEIS addresses possible impacts to the Northern Sea Otter and correctly states that this species is not federally listed as threatened or endangered, the EIS/OEIS omits that the sea otter is listed as a federal species of concern and is listed under state law as endangered. 3.4.1.37.3 Distribution. p. 3.4-8) For a list of species designated for special protection under Washington State law go to <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/listed">https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/listed</a> .	marbled murrelet. As noted above, all but one of the offshore proposed activities using explosives are conducted at least 50 nautical miles offshore.
Talman-6	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>This is not an exhaustive list of the problems we see with the Northwest Training and Testing Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the present or future activities which it describes. The much studied but still inconclusive effects of sonar on marine mammals and other marine species is another whole area of concern to us. In conclusion, we urge selection of the No Action alternative rather than Alternative One, which has been identified as the Navy's Preferred.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Tarleton-1	Underwater sonar has been proven to be disruptive to marine life. Both species of orca in the Salish Sea are affected; however the SRKW species is at the brink of extinction due to lack of food. Whales rely on sonar for hunting and if their ability to hunt is compromised, even the actions taken to increase our salmon population will not help.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Taylor A-1	Extinction is forever.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Taylor E-1	<p>In conversation with Navy representatives here it was not clear that the Navy recognizes the enormous peril that climate disruption is causing to the health of the ocean and to terrestrial species. The Navy is the largest single producer of greenhouse gases in the world with the exception of only 34 countries. This harm is greater and more probable than any imagined or provoked threat from one of the countries our government has designated as an enemy.</p> <p>The consequences of climate disruption, if recognized by the Navy and it is truly unwilling to sacrifice life on earth for the sake of military competitiveness, would shut down the exercises and war activity. Please do your best to focus on this overriding issue of survival.</p>	<p>The Navy considers the current affected environment, which includes the affects of climate change. Climate change is addressed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS in Section 3.2.3.2 (Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change). Climate change, as a cumulative impact was analyzed in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and referred to in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Taylor G-1	<p>I am totally against this form of environmental action. I know our whales, dolphins, and other sea/river animals should have priority over human tampering of their natural habitat. Noise is a huge human problem. We should not thrust noise pollution on these animals as they rely on their ears far more than we do. They have a right to be able to communicate and work with each other in their own natural environment.</p> <p>Please wake up to the unnecessary destruction. Surely, you can find harmless way of testing your kill machines!</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Taylor La-1	<p>While I do understand that our pilots need to be trained in similar conditions to real battle, it is puzzling why a pristine ecologically sensitive area has to be chosen for this. There are so many places in this country that are neither beautiful or are an outdoor enthusiasts haven. Why is the Navy choosing this area in Washington that is so crucial to our state? It doesn't</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	make sense and it seems as if the Navy is doing whatever it wants whenever it wants. What happened to serve and protect? I am highly supportive of our Armed Forces, but, I also feel taken advantage of and for granted as a citizen by the Naval Command in Washington.	<p>MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Taylor Lo-1	<p>I'm not sure this will do any good, but I am going to try. I see your guidelines on the website regarding comments. I'd like to believe they would make a difference. They didn't. I participated in the largest community effort to respond to your Growler Expansion EIS with referenced documents, thoughtful commentary and solutions. Every single one of our concerns (and there were well over 4,000 comments) were ignored in the Final EIS and y'all did what you wanted to, without regard to the community that supports you.</p> <p>But onto this NW Training EIS. I was a Navy wife for 20 years here on Whidbey and am well aware of the need to train and the importance of the electronic warfare mission. What I have issue with are the sensitive areas in which you are training, and the damage to the environment and public health your operations cause.</p> <p>You have a history of segmenting your EISs in the area, whether its Growler expansion, Navy SEALs, or training in the Olympics. You have decided to turn this military into one big combat training zone with no element of the environment unharmed.</p> <p>Puget Sound is an environmentally sensitive area. Home to the last 76 Southern Resident Killer Whales in the world. They may go extinct in my lifetime due to lack of food, and the noise caused by Growler jet training, just like excess boat noise, makes them spend many extra hours finding food, contributing to their malnutrition and loss of fertility.</p> <p>The Olympic National Forest and Park are so sacred, even the white settlers gave it the name reserved for the home of the Gods. A World Heritage site and Biosphere reserve, it is one of the last quiet places on the planet.</p> <p>Recent studies from the University of Washington show that 85-90% of the noise in the Olympics comes from the constant Growler overflights. Many</p>	<p>The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>animals living there depend on their hearing for survival – which is greatly impacted by 85 dB noise and above.</p> <p>Your own estimation of the “take” to marine mammals is heartbreaking. If any other party or industry in the world harmed as many marine mammals as you do, it would be an outrage. It’s no less an outrage than when done in the name of national defense.</p> <p>I’m asking you to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce the concentration of Growlers and overflights in the NWTT area to mitigate your impact on a sensitive environment. Consider areas like Kingsville, TX or Fallon, NV where the areas are less populated and less environmentally fragile. Share the burden across several sites so that no area is disproportionately impacted. This also improves national security by not siting all your electronic warfare jet aircraft in one vulnerable, coastal location.</li> </ol>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Taylor Lo-2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Make a serious effort to avoid harming marine mammals by reducing the amount of training you do in the NWTT and training when the impact to living beings is the lowest. This isn’t World War II. We can schedule trainings. We are not in some sort of emergency where we can’t think about the impact of what we are doing.</li> </ol>	<p>The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy’s purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.</p>
Taylor Lo-3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Provide real-time noise monitoring of the impact of your operations in the Olympic National Park, Forest and in areas where the Orcas live and hunt. Then do what you can to reduce that impact. Here on Whidbey we have high noise impacts because the aviators in the FCLP pattern don’t observe their own minimum altitude of 600 feet. Sticking to your own rules goes a long way toward reducing the impact of your operations. Sharing your operations with other sites also reduces the impact to any given site.</li> <li>4. Consider that in defending our nation, you may be destroying it. Stop training in our National Parks. Our National Parks were set aside for preservation of quiet, of intact environment and wildlife. They were not set aside for military practice. The military has substantial holdings. There are less environmentally fragile</li> </ol> <p>Please don't say you don't have the money to do these things. You do. The military spends over 50% of federal discretionary income. You are the biggest part of big government. You’re not audited and you routinely misplace millions upon millions of dollars. Spend some of that money to preserve what you are trying to protect.</p>	<p>DoD’s position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD’s position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>I know that some person in the Navy somewhere, maybe one person will read this document. If that is you, what will you tell your children? How did you preserve and protect our beautiful country? Please use the voice and the advocacy you have to find some balanced way for the military to train that preserves these beautiful and sacred places, and doesn't harm the people or environment that gives us the quality of life we do have.</p> <p>I gave 20 years of my young life supporting the Navy mission. I know you can do better and be better. Please show some care about how you train and don't run roughshod and without respect over the citizenry that pays for what you do and supports you in your service.</p>	<p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Taylor P-1	<p>Idaho and Nevada training areas were designed for warfare training, the Olympic Peninsula was not.</p> <p>There is no reason the Navy can not continue electronic warfare training in Idaho and Nevada as they have done for decades.</p> <p>This will disturb visitors to, and the wildlife of, Olympic National Park which is the eighth most visited park in the National Park System; 3.4 million visitors to the Olympic National Park in 2017.</p> <p>It includes International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site.</p> <p>The 2011 World Health Organization report titled 'Burden of disease from environmental noise' documented health problems. The studies analysed environmental noise from planes, trains and vehicles, as well as other city sources, and then looked at links to health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, sleep disturbance, tinnitus, cognitive impairment in children, and annoyance. The WHO team used the information to calculate the disability-adjusted life-years or DALYs—basically the healthy years of life—lost to 'unwanted' human-induced dissonance. See the Australian Academy of Science article: Health effects of environmental noise pollution</p> <p>The sound profile of the Growler is not only loud but includes a low-frequency vibration that travels farther and vibrates objects in its path. This aspect creates a deadly combination beyond annoyance that impacts human health.</p> <p>Impact to our economy:</p> <p>People spent \$279 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 3,556 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$385 million.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety). The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources).</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	In this EIS the Navy is asking NOAA for a continuation of their 2015 NOAA permit which states" reauthorization of incidental takes of marine mammals under the MMPA and incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine species'	The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.
Taylor R-1	My name is Rachel and by leaving this public comment I am hereby signing my name to a future petition to stop underwater sonar testing for the sake of our marine mammals. I go to school and work for the Guy Harvey institution and we sit right in between a naval base and the coast guard. We love and respect our US military, especially me. We understand that with the age and technology progressing, the Navy is trying to find techniques to further their testing and preparation for war and/or seeking out unorthodox territory. However, we are doing very productive research on these mammals and they're ability to help humans. The extensive research and work we have done has helped us get closer and closer to finding a healing immunity to cure cancer and Alzheimer's. We have worked hard on trying to rescue these stranded animals who are in distress because of mixed signals, hearing loss and hazardous conditions. When their population decreases, you're messing with the entire ecosystem and food chain...which in turn, impacts us. Please stop these types of testing, if there is anyway else you can go about your training it would save lives. We thank you for all that you do. We thank you for dedicating your lives to our country. We thank you for your innovative technology and your hard work to do your job to save your country despite all of the political hate that goes on. And we thank you in advance for your careful consideration to our request and your perspective on how to better everyone's lives, including yours. God bless each and everyone of you, and God bless America.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Taylor V-1	Please stop under water sonar testing that has been proven to cause harm to marine animals. I am 100% against this testing along with so many others.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Teller-1	Greetings. As a Navy veteran and local resident who has experienced sonic transponders from offshore oil exploration, I know how loud and potentially destructive underwater sonic testing can be. The ocean and its resident wildlife are fragile. Having a liquid desert is not desirable. I believe the proposed testing would be destructive and is inappropriate. There is no acceptable level of losses of marine life. Please cancel the tests.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Templer-1	<p>I am a 50-year resident of the coastal community of Fort Bragg in Mendocino County, California. We are an ocean-front community dependent on the health of the ocean and marine wildlife for our economic well-being. Fort Bragg is a blue-collar former mill town; our lumber mill shut down abruptly in 2002 and threw the town into economic free-fall from which it is still recovering. Recovery has been very dependent on attracting tourists to our community, and the removal of the mill structures has had a positive effect, as access to the ocean within city limits was limited while the mill was operative. Local meetings and surveys have determined that most residents want the former mill property to be a marine science center, and with that goal in mind, the Noyo Marine Center is already up and running. Our economic recovery depends on bringing tourists to the coast and educating them about the ocean and its inhabitants.</p> <p>Whale watching is a major tourist draw. People flock to this area to enjoy the majestic passage of the whales. They certainly don't come here to view dead whales, though more and more dead whales are turning up along the California Coast. Until a year ago, they also came to Fort Bragg in large numbers to go abalone diving. Now there are no abalone, because there is no longer kelp, most likely due to climate change and the increasingly acidified ocean. Now we no longer have the revenue stream from the abalone divers.</p> <p>The sonar testing proposed by the Navy will have a serious and detrimental effect on marine wildlife off our coast. This has been established by research and studies too numerous to mention. The Navy is proposing actions that will harm and kill marine species at a time when, again according to well-published studies, it is predicted that climate change will bring about the extinction of 90% of existing species. The Navy testing will also introduce more toxic waste into the ocean, as if there isn't enough</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment, such as water quality and socioeconomic impacts can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	there already. This cruel destruction and maiming of marine wildlife, and the addition of harmful toxins, will exacerbate the disastrous trends already set in motion by climate change. My community is trying to stay afloat financially by attracting people to our coast to enjoy the wonders of our marine environment, which navy sonar testing will put in serious jeopardy. For the immediate and long-term benefit of my community, and for all the already imperiled marine wildlife struggling to hold on, I urge the navy to abandon its plans for sonar testing.	
Teplow-1	I am very upset that our Navy has decided to practice their equipment which includes sonic booms which are extremely detrimental to our whale group which is currently going up north to feed. Global warming has already harmed whales, and they are not getting enough krill to eat; thus they are already weaken. I request that the Navy operate their practice out of the line of the whale migration.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
terHorst-1	I live at 4734 Magnolia Street in Port Townsend, on the north side of the Quimper Peninsula (see attached). I love planes and the Navy. But there's a time and place for everything, and the sound of Growlers in the vicinity, especially in the evenings, is just plain annoying, not to mention nerve-racking. In the warmer months, we like to sleep with our windows open, but there is no way we can sleep with the constant jet noise unless we close up everything and turn on a fan for white noise. It's like living in a dungeon. Honestly, it reminds me of when we lived at the end of the runway at Love Field in Dallas right after we got married 40 years ago. This is supposed to be a tranquil place, and with so much nature around us, it is. But when the Growlers are in the area, I feel like I am back in the big city. Seriously, there must be something you can do to mitigate this. Increasing the number of flights is definitely not the answer! Don't turn this patriot against the fine men and women who serve our country.	Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.  While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.  When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:  1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude. 2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year). 3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day. 4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.
Terpstra-1	I am submitting this comment to protest the use of underwater sonar testing by the US Navy. This form of testing has been shown to cause temporary and permanent hearing loss in whales and dolphins and sends them into distress even far away from testing ships. This is 100% unacceptable! I ask for this damaging practice and reckless disregard for cetacean life to stop immediately. Considering that the southern residential killer whale population is critically endangered and on the verge of collapse due to the lack of food and stress the human population is putting on them I find the sonar testing to be ignorant and wildly irresponsible by a branch of the US government. As a resident of the west coast of this continent I care deeply about the health, well-being and future of our ocean and the wildlife that calls it home. I once again ask for these testing practices to cease immediately in order to let whales and dolphins as well as all other wildlife in our ocean live in peace. Thank you.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Thaldorf-1	It's important to understand that the ocean is a world of sound, not sight. These animals use sound to find food, meet mates, avoid predators, and navigate the seas. We do not need to gut this earth and further destroy every beautiful thing that remains. Please do not allow this to continue to disrupt the lives of already dwindling species.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Thayer-1	After a brief reading of the proposal and attending an informational meeting held by the Noyo Center in Fort Bragg on the Mendocino Coast it is my opinion that the disruptive effect of the current sonar technology will adversely effect the protected species off our coast. This disruptive impact on Grey and Humpback whales species will have an adverse effect on our	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	eco-tourist trade. Tourists come from all over California, and the US for that matter, to see and enjoy the migrating whales. If they are negatively impacted by the sonar use our local economy will be negatively effected. I do not feel the Navy has adequately balanced their needs with our economic needs.	<p>Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.</p>
Thie-1	The number and noise of over flights must be reduced to protect human health and the environment. DOD must prioritize noise reduction through research, development and use of cutting edge noise reduction technology.	The alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.
Thiel-1	It is sad to see thousands of these beautiful creatures being killed in the oceans around the world because of sonar testing. It's their home the sea not ours to destroy!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Thomas C-1	<p>I support and am in solidarity with the position of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council and its member Tribes and the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples regarding the cultural and environmental protections that are needed for the Navy's proposed training and testing activities in the Northwest Training Range Complex. The following points are of particular importance.</p> <p>1. The adequacy of the assessment of Tribal cultural impacts as well as environmental impacts from the Navy's training and testing activities is especially important because these activities take place in the Pacific</p>	Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Ocean, which holds great cultural and spiritual significance for the Tribes and is critically important for the wellbeing of all people and lifeforms on this planet.</p> <p>2. The Navy should work meaningfully with the Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities. I attended the public input meeting in Fort Bragg this Spring and was deeply disappointed to hear that the Navy's Scientists present did not know that its sister Agency EPA Region 9 holds an annual meeting of the Region 9 Tribal Environmental Department Officers from all Region 9 federally recognized tribes. As an environmental scientist, I have attended these meetings and found them to be substantially informative and enlightening. I know of no other meeting that provides such a valuable collection of traditional environmental knowledge as well and recent research. I strongly recommend that Navy biological impact scientists attend this meeting annually to cross fertilize their limited knowledge base.</p> <p>3. The Navy should prohibit use of sonar within the 50-mile mitigation area. Sonar causes serious harm to the health and wellbeing of whales and other marine mammals. I applaud the 2004 Report of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, the preeminent international body of scientists studying whale populations which clearly documents that many species of marine life are affected by active sonar  <a href="https://www.acousticecology.org/docs/IWC56-noisesymposium.doc">https://www.acousticecology.org/docs/IWC56-noisesymposium.doc</a>.  The use of sonar in training and testing exercises is known to seriously damage the hearing and alter the behavior of marine mammals when in the vicinity of such activities. Sound waves in the water medium, are key to sensory perception and communications for diverse sea life forms. To indicate that no harm is done to marine life is equivalent to indicating that interrupting the traffic signal system of a major city would not cause harm to humans. Disabling either system is well documented to cause significant direct and indirect harm to the inhabitants.  In 2016, a federal court found that the National Marine Fisheries Service's "systematic under protection of" whales and other marine life in its permit for the Navy's use of low-frequency sonar across the globe violated the law and ordered the government to consider additional mitigation measures for this activity.  The impacts of sonar and other Navy training and testing activities on the marine environment should not be measured solely according to whether</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>entire populations of marine species are harmed. The goal of mitigation of harm to marine plant and animal species should be to reduce the effect of training and testing to the lowest humanly possible impact.</p> <p>4. The “best available science” referenced in the draft SEIS should be expanded to meaningfully take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy’s NWTRC. See item 2 above</p> <p>5. The Navy’s monitoring program should be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species. Individual as well as population impacts have profound importance when considering that individuals carry the genetic diversity required for long term resilience, not a general population</p> <p>6. The Navy should expand its list of environmental “stressors” to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</p> <p>7. The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy’s 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered.</p> <p>As a concerned member of the public, who has lived on the California north coast at shoreline for over 22 years, I call on the Navy to honor the reasonable request of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council’s member Tribes that testing and training activities be conducted outside of marine waters offshore from California. This area can be avoided entirely without undermining military readiness, since the Navy estimates that less than one percent of its activities will take place off the coast of Northern California.</p> <p>As an academic research field biologist with over 38 years of experience and numerous published peer-reviewed scientific research articles, I ask that the Navy cooperate with the Tribes in meaningful ways to help ensure that military training and testing do not harm marine life and areas of cultural concern to the Tribes. The Navy’s obligation to consult with sovereign Tribal Nations under federal law provides a framework for the</p>	



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Tribal-Navy consultation being facilitated by the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council.</p> <p>I strongly urge the Navy to collaborate with the member Tribes of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council in developing robust monitoring and mitigation measures to address impacts of the Navy's training and testing activities that are planned for the Northwest Training Range Complex. I request that public meetings be held in Fort Bragg, CA following the release of the Draft Supplemental EIS in early 2019.</p> <p>I request and look forward to a timely response to my concerns from NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager.</p>	
Thomas C-2	<p>It is essential that the Navy engage in meaningful conversation with Tribal Councils and citizens that result in workable actions and practices based on Indigenous ecological knowledge and recent scientific knowledge based on actual biological systems.</p> <p>Population changes are not the metric to base decisions. Inappropriate decisions on changes on marine populations have a bias that minimizes the message, particularly for larger populations. I'm deeply concerned that the zone needs to be extended out beyond 20 miles to 50 miles.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned about the use of sonar in the presence of marine animals &amp; fish. It should be included as a stressor in all Navy activities.</p> <p>Using the best available science and Tribal Traditional Knowledge monitoring should be expanded to include experts in non-military organizations and including tribal EPA scientists. As an ecologist and plant health expert, the interdependency on species mix and ecological health of all species requires prolonged &amp; multidisciplinary monitoring before decisions &amp; practices are chosen.</p>	<p>The Navy will continue to consult with the Tribes. Through Government-to-Government consultations, the Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Thomas D-1	<p>Sonar testing is harmful to marine animals and should not be used especially as they are already endangered. This is cruelty because it causes them distress. Please stop!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Thomas G-1	<p>For the purposes of its environmental impact study, the Navy utilized a standard noise metric, Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) and dBA, A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level. See Appendix J, Airspace Noise Analysis for</p>	<p>A-weighting, which was used in the noise modeling described in Appendix J, best replicates human hearing and is the most appropriate for the assessment of annoyance from aircraft noise. A-weighted sound levels form the basis of</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>the Olympic Military Operations Areas.</p> <p>The DNL is a noise measure used for assessing cumulative sound levels. This measure accounts for the exposure of all noise events in an average 24-hour period. DNL, also denoted as Ldn, is an average sound level, expressed in decibels (dB), which is commonly used to assess aircraft noise exposures in communities in the vicinity of airfields and under SUA (FICUN, 1980; EPA, 1982; ANSI, 2005). Not directly related to any singular sound event a person may hear, DNL values normally only define compatible/incompatible land use parameters.</p> <p>The NWTT EIS/OEIS does mention any assessment of the environmental impact of low-frequency noise (LFN) on humans, terrestrial wildlife, or sea mammals. Moreover, some recent scientific literature suggests that LFN may also affect shellfish because the perceived vibration. ( See <a href="https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0185353#abstract0">https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0185353#abstract0</a> )</p> <p>Since dBA, A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level, does not measure (detect) LFN sound/energy emissions below 80 Hz, the NWTT EIS/OEIS will need to consider And examine the environment impact from that portion of the energy spectrum. Without a thorough examination of the environmental impacts from low-frequency noise the NWTT EIS/OEIS is incomplete. Please see link below, for example, as you begin your investigation. <a href="https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130403165414/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/research/lowfrequency/documents/lowfreqnoise.pdf">https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130403165414/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/research/lowfrequency/documents/lowfreqnoise.pdf</a></p>	<p>the day-night average sound level (DNL) metric, which is the best available metric to relate aircraft noise to long-term annoyance. The Federal Interagency Committee on Noise found that “There are no new descriptors or metrics of sufficient scientific standing to substitute for the present DNL cumulative noise exposure metric.” The comment suggests that A-weighted measures may not be as accurate in determining the disturbing effects of noises with strong low-frequency components. However, the alternative measurement methodology using C-weighting increases the emphasis on lower frequencies when compared with A-weighting. C-weighting is most appropriate for impulsive or repetitive sounds, such as blast noise and machine gun fire, which contain significant low-frequency noise, as well as continuous noise sources such as pumps and compressors.</p> <p>For potential wildlife impacts, A-weighted sound levels are used as an indicator. The wildlife population underneath and around the Olympic MOA have been exposed to military aircraft noise for an extended period. The proposed action does not represent new noise exposure events to the wildlife. The Navy has consulted numerous studies that the DoD has sponsored in the past three decades. Many of these studies were included in the analysis of impacts to birds found in Section 3.6.2.1.4 (Impacts from Aircraft Noise) of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and other animals. In addition, the Navy has consulted with the USFWS regarding the potential of proposed Navy activities to impact ESA-listed species in the Study Area.</p>
Thompson H-1	<p><a href="https://www.theverge.com/2016/7/18/12213780/low-frequency-sonar-navy-whales-dolphins-marine-mammals-us-court">https://www.theverge.com/2016/7/18/12213780/low-frequency-sonar-navy-whales-dolphins-marine-mammals-us-court</a></p> <p><a href="https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammals_and_sonar">https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammals_and_sonar</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/09/us-navy-limit-sonar-testing-protect-whales">https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/09/us-navy-limit-sonar-testing-protect-whales</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2017.00295/full">https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2017.00295/full</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nature.com/news/2008/080801/full/news.2008.997.html">https://www.nature.com/news/2008/080801/full/news.2008.997.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.hakaimagazine.com/news/us-navys-new-sonar-rules-may-be-worse-dolphins-and-whales/">https://www.hakaimagazine.com/news/us-navys-new-sonar-rules-may-be-worse-dolphins-and-whales/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/?redirect=1">https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/?redirect=1</a></p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy’s ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy’s Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.mil/marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.mil/marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Thompson H-2	I am against underwater sonar testing which has proven to cause harm to our vitally important marine animals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Thompson Jam-1	<p>I live in Mendocino county and strongly and emphatically oppose the conducting of naval exercises off the Mendocino coast. I urge the navy to follow the No-Action Alternative for the following reasons:</p> <p>A recent, 2019, study by the Royal Society found Northern bottlenose whales in a pristine environment respond strongly to close and distant navy sonar signals. (<a href="https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2018.2592">https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2018.2592</a>)</p> <p>In addition the study done in 2011 by the Scottish Oceans Institute found "our observations indicated a large number of changes in behaviour during exposure to sonar that can be considered "negative effects" of the sonar." While the cetaceans tested are not the exact species that exist or travel through the water off the Mendocino coast their behavior and the disruption caused needs to be considered for local cetaceans. (<a href="https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Paul_Wensveen2/publication/259654570_The_3S_experiments_studying_the_behavioral_effects_of_sonar_on_killer_whales_Orcinus_orca_sperm_whales_Physeter_macrocephalus_and_long-finned_pilot_whales_Globicephala_melas_in_Norwegian_waters/links/00b4952d291362642c000000/The-3S-experiments-studying-the-behavioral-effects-of-sonar-on-killer-whales-Orcinus-orca-sperm-whales-Physeter-macrocephalus-and-long-finned-pilot-whales-Globicephala-melas-in-Norwegian-waters.pdf">https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Paul_Wensveen2/publication/259654570_The_3S_experiments_studying_the_behavioral_effects_of_sonar_on_killer_whales_Orcinus_orca_sperm_whales_Physeter_macrocephalus_and_long-finned_pilot_whales_Globicephala_melas_in_Norwegian_waters/links/00b4952d291362642c000000/The-3S-experiments-studying-the-behavioral-effects-of-sonar-on-killer-whales-Orcinus-orca-sperm-whales-Physeter-macrocephalus-and-long-finned-pilot-whales-Globicephala-melas-in-Norwegian-waters.pdf</a>)</p> <p>As described in the two studies above Increased sonar and electromagnetic underwater testing has the potential to interfere or injure marine mammals' ability to navigate and communicate.</p> <p>The Navy itself predicts that there would be more than 500,000 instances</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment, such as vessel strike, entanglement, and ingestion can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>of marine mammal behavioral impacts, harassment, and injuries over five years, including 275,000 instances of temporary hearing loss, and more than 600 instances of permanent hearing loss.</p> <p>Vessel strikes from increased water traffic will increase marine mammal death rate. We have already seen the loss of nine grey whales in the San Francisco Bay area in the last six weeks from malnourishment and vessel strikes. The western North Pacific population of grey whales is estimated to include fewer than 200 individuals. We cannot afford to put these animals in greater danger.</p> <p>Risks to marine mammals, fish, and birds from entanglement in wires, cables, and parachutes, and ingestion of expended military materials and toxic debris will increase. The Navy holds no responsibility to clean up their spent munitions and debris.</p> <p>The Navy's training and testing harmfully impact the cultural and spiritual significance of marine species and habitat for the Tribes of the West Coast.</p>	
Thompson Jan-1	I am requesting an additional 14 days to provide comments to the Navy on the EIS/OEIS March 2019 fir Northwest Training and Testing. This would provide a full 90 day comment period.	The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.
Thompson Jan-2	<p>I have only recently become aware of the proposal to move the jet training facility to the Olympic Peninsula. I am dismayed that the Navy has not provided the full 90 days comment period to review the Navy EIS/OEIS March 2019 for Northwest Training and Testing. My comments are submitted to meet the current deadline. Based upon what I know about the Olympic Peninsula the only acceptable alternative is the No Action Alternative. Our environmental security is important in this age of climate change.</p> <p>I am opposed to alternatives 1 and 2 which would establish an electronic warfare training area on the Olympic Peninsula. The Olympic Peninsula and the National Marine Sanctuary are unique and these areas should not be a military warfare training area. We have very few places in the United States that provide the peace and quiet found on the Olympic Peninsula. The Navy's training areas in Idaho and Nevada are designed for warfare training. These sites have been used for decades and the environmental costs already incurred. The Olympic Peninsula was not so designated. In fact areas of the Olympic Peninsula have been set aside for protection since 1907. The environment on the Olympic Peninsula is unique. My family and I have gone to the Olympic Peninsula many times to whale watch, hike and backpack, enjoy the beaches, take pictures of wildlife, the Olympic National Park and attend the many community events. We could not enjoy these</p>	<p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p> <p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment, such as socioeconomic impacts and impacts to wildlife can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>activities due to the noise generated by the proposed Growler training patterns. It is my belief that the degradation to the Olympic Peninsula's environment will be catastrophic.</p> <p>The noise from the 5,000 jet flights per year over the western and northern parts of the Peninsula will chase residents and visitors away. This will affect the health and economy of the Peninsula and the state of Washington. The tourism industry has become an important part of the Olympic Peninsula economy. The search pattern of jet Growler flights looking for emitters would roar above the ocean beaches, the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges, Washington State Department of Natural Resources land, The Olympic National Forest, Quinault, Quileute and Hoh Reservations, and thousands of acres of private land, including the towns of Forks and Amanda Park. The EIS/OEIS identifies that each pass will sustain 85-100 Decibels of noise per pass. The People in Forks recorded 94 decibel flights under the current operations. As a retired Speech-Language Pathologist, I have concerns about the cumulative impacts of the noise levels on the bearing and communication abilities of adults and children, particularly children in schools and patients and staff in hospitals located in the proposed training area and surrounding areas. I am concerned that these noise levels will also have detrimental effects on tourists visiting Olympic National Park, the National Refuges, the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary and the surrounding areas. They come for the quiet and the unique environment. The conditions set up by the noise levels generated by the Growlers are not consistent with a restful vacation. We know that noise causes stress in people, and that long term stress is related to high blood pressure, heart disease and mental health problems, which would increase the strain on rural health systems.</p> <p>These noise effects are not limited to the people on the Peninsula, but also to the wildlife. It is unfortunate that there are no studies at the present time done on the iconic Olympic elk, but it is not difficult to reason they would be affected similarly to humans, being mammals of a similar weight. One outcome I have wondered about is the startle reflex created by loud noises. Conceivably, startled wildlife would run, which could result in underweight conditions because the animals have less time to search for food.</p> <p>The Military training in the Marine Sanctuary would do damage to the ocean beaches, the marine animals of the coast, the nesting areas of many of Washington's shorebirds, migrating whales, and the birds that use the Pacific Flyway. Specifically, the electromagnetic waves emitted will</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>negatively impact the many birds living and flying on the West side of the Peninsula. We already know that both Orca pods are under stress with current conditions. The request for an extension to the NOAA permit allowing "incidental takes of marine mammals... and incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine species (EIS P. ES-4) should be denied. Many millions of dollars have been spent to move threatened and endangered marine species off of the list. The Navy's proposal is inconsistent with these efforts and should not be permitted. The degradation of the Olympic Peninsula's coastal and marine environment would be catastrophic.</p> <p>I strongly endorse the No Action Alternative as the only acceptable alternative. The other options are unacceptable to the environment and life on the Olympic Peninsula. Alternative 1 and 2 would cause unforgiveable and unnecessary damage to Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Alternative 2 is even more extreme. The warfare training as described in this Navy EIS/OEIS can and is being done elsewhere. The degradation to the Olympic Peninsula under Alternatives 1 and 2 is unacceptable. For 112 years, the citizens of Washington have worked hard with Congress and presidents, to designate areas of the Peninsula with the goal of protecting its valuable environment in perpetuity. Irreparable damage would be caused by activities done as stated in the Navy EIS/OEIS March 2019 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest training and Testing.</p> <p>While I believe in Military readiness, the Navy has other options in other parts of our country. These options should be exercised. Specifically the Navy should continue to use their existing training sites. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Navy EIS/OEIS March 2019 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest training and Testing.</p>	
Thompson M-1	<p>I am a resident of Mendocino County and a homeowner in the town of Gualala. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed increase in testing off of our shores.</p> <p>We know objectively, and it has been substantiated through peer reviewed research, that Navy sonar use and testing has a negative impact on marine life. This fact has not changed in the years that the Navy has repeatedly attempted to increase testing off of the Northern California coast and throughout the Pacific Northwest. A study just released this March further validates the harmful effects that sonar can have on marine life, regardless</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>of distance or frequency:  <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2592">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2592</a>            Knowing objectively and scientifically that Navy sonar testing and use has caused and will continue to cause harm to marine life regardless of how it is rationalized, the proposition to increase this testing when our local marine ecosystems are already at a vulnerable, fragile tipping point is horrifying. We have seen record deaths of gray whales throughout California this year, many due to ship strikes and entanglement. The Southern Resident Orcas are on the brink of extinction. Climate change is wreaking havoc on our coast in the form of mass bird, abalone and kelp die-offs.</p> <p>Many people in our community are fighting desperately to help protect sustain the delicate web of life that our local ecosystems (and in some ways, economies) depend on. The fact that the Navy continues to push for this increased testing shows a blatant disrespect for the voice of the people who live on the North Coast, as this is not the first time the community has expressed significant opposition to Naval testing activities from both environmental and personal perspectives. If the Navy truly honors the voice and needs of the people who live on the North Coast, they will listen to this feedback and cease plans for increased testing immediately.</p>	<p>EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Thompson R-1	<p>I have major concerns that this project will negatively affect the wildlife that inhabit the region where the tests are planned to take place. The first concern of mine is the location, and its close proximity to an endangered population of orcas known as the Southern Resident Killer Whales. The Southern Resident killer whales comprise a small group and are one of the four resident whale communities that inhabit the northwest coast of America. Right now they are a critically endangered species because of a substantial decrease in their food supply of Chinook salmon caused by commercial fishing and river diversion by dams. Other factors that are threatening their survival are noise disruption from vessel traffic and the dumping of toxic waste into Puget Sound. Their population currently consists of 76 whales, and this small number came only years after the clan suffered numerous deaths from starvation, unsuccessful births, boat accidents and most significantly, the capture of its members by humans in the 1960s &amp; 1970s for marinepark entertainment.</p> <p>These whales are already at serious risk of extinction and these proposed sonar tests will almost guarantee this possibility is reached much sooner than anticipated. When these type of tests were conducted in the past in various parts of the world, there is evidence to prove that it resulted in a</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) of the 2015 NWT Final EIS/OEIS, and the “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities (June 2017)” (<a href="https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-">https://www.nwtteis.com/Documents/2019-Northwest-Training-and-</a></p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>huge number of whale and dolphin deaths. High frequency sonar affects whales' hearing, which is a crucial sensory function that they need for locating food, avoiding objects, identifying predators and finding other members of their pod. Most often than not, they go deaf from the sonar blasts and will subsequently strand themselves on the nearest beach. Necropsy results produced from mass whale and dolphin strandings across the world, consistently show the cause of death as internal hemorrhaging from damaged ear drums. In each case, the military had conducted several sonar tests in an area of the ocean where marine mammals were known to be present. Sources: Schroepe, Mark. (2002). Whale deaths caused by US Navy's sonar. Nature. 415. 106. 10.1038/415106a.  <a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/?redirect=1">https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/?redirect=1</a>  <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3056662/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3056662/</a>            I do not want this to be the same fate for the Southern Resident Killer Whales. This particular group of killer whales are highly valued by the communities that reside near Puget Sound in Washington state. They are a part of the cultural identity and tourism industry that are unique to Washington. They also hold significant spiritual value for Native American tribes who have inhabited the Pacific Northwest region for centuries. This level of reverence that people have for the Southern Resident Killer Whales is evident in the recent legislation that has passed to ensure their protection and survival. Source: <a href="https://medium.com/wagovernor/inslee-signs-bill-package-to-protect-aid-grow-orca-and-salmon-population-in-salish-sea-721b2d4758c9">https://medium.com/wagovernor/inslee-signs-bill-package-to-protect-aid-grow-orca-and-salmon-population-in-salish-sea-721b2d4758c9</a>            Harming these whales with sonar technology will undoubtedly cause public outrage and I believe would not reflect well on the U.S. Navy's long-standing reputation.            My second concern is the impact that this sonar testing will have on the entire ecosystem of the Salish Sea. Transient killer whales, humpback whales, otters, sea lions, crabs, sea gulls and various other marine life also inhabit this area. How will this affect their sensitive hearing? From a food chain standpoint, the role that resident and transient killer whales play in keeping salmon and sea lion populations that they prey on within a healthy range is vital; namely because it prevents proliferation of those species. This mechanism of checks and balances trickles down the food chain to the tiniest of organisms. So in theory, if the whales perished and were removed from this delicate system, the whole ecosystem might suddenly collapse. This change would consequently affect the fishing industry and the</p>	<p>Testing-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Documents/2019-Supplemental-EIS-OEIS-Supporting-Technical-Documents).</p> <p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Navy has considered conducting training and testing in other locations; however, as stated in Section 2.4.1.1 (Alternate Training and Testing Locations), other locations fail to provide all the attributes necessary for effective training and testing.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>livelihoods of people that depend on it. It is a matter of science, a matter of ecological systems knowledge to understand how interdependent the relationship is between nature and humans.</p> <p>My third and final concern is more of a question: What other options can be explored for sonar testing? I understand the importance that sonar technology serves for navigation and surveillance in underwater military operations; however can its functionality be tested at a naval ship port instead of out in the ocean? And if not, can it be done in a more isolated section of the ocean where marine mammals are known not to frequent very often? I believe these questions should be taken into consideration before moving forward with this action.</p> <p>To be clear on my stance, I am deeply opposed to this plan and I ask that you please reevaluate all the mitigating factors involved to ensure that the negative effects of sonar tests on whales, dolphins and porpoises are kept to an absolute minimum.</p>	
Thompson S-1	I am 100% against the US Naval sonar testing. It's not fair for you to perform those tests in someones home.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Thornton Ang-1	I urge the Navy NOT to increase the volume or types of testing used as marine mammals are already under sever strain due to climate change. Adding this excessive sonar stress to their environment is counter to the wellbeing of our oceans, and harms the cultural and spiritual well-being of marine species and habitat for the indigenous tribes of the west coast. I stand with the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council against the Navy's proposed course of action.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Thornton Ann-1	Please stop Sonar testing it is harmful for many forms of Marine life	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Thornton M-1	Please prohibit Sonar testing it harms Marine creatures	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Thornton W-1	How can the claim that the testing will not be detrimental to marine mammals and wildlife be substantiated? I don't believe you can. Please provide proof your sonar testing will not be harmful to whales. Please convince me how the aquatic species mammals, fish, will be protected.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Thunen-1	I have been a resident of the Mendocino coastal area for over 40 years. I am writing with concerns about the proposed Naval sonar and explosive testing off the Mendocino coast. We know that sonar damages, at the very least, the hearing of whales and other sea mammals. Whales navigate, feed, and communicate by sound. A whale who cannot hear, cannot survive. We know that underwater mines and missiles the navy explodes are live ammunition, full of toxins which will sink to the ocean floor. Gray Whales are bottom feeders. Also, changes in prey species (fish) would be affected by sonar transmissions, probably killing or at least damaging the development of the eggs of one or more important mammal prey species, and disrupting the life cycles of such species. Even if the results were not fatal, they would be	The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.  The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>liable to cause relocation, at the very least.</p> <p>Of late (within the last month), there have been recurring whale deaths along the Pacific Coast. NOAA has been studying this phenomenon to attempt to ascertain the cause of the die-offs. The SEIS needs to take into account the already stressed gray whale population. Considering this, will the Navy provide updated studies in the SEIS reflecting the current crisis?</p> <p>Would you consider slowing down your proposed procedures to allow enough time for current scientific data to be added to your SEIS?</p> <p>Sonar and explosive testing off the Mendocino coast would be very damaging to the fragile oceanic ecosystem on which our human population relies. Our ocean and its sea life are vital to the economy of our area, and must be preserved.</p>	<p>Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Thurston-1	<p>STOP torturing the Olympic Peninsula, Olympic National Park, Forest and the waters off the Olympic peninsula. This EIS is bogus. There is already the ability to use the Yakima Range with so much less harmful impact - so please do so. The Navy is harming people, the environment, the peninsula's economy, the animals and much more. Stop this bogus deployment. In the name of protecting our country the Navy is the terrorists.</p> <p>The noise from flights over my home (in Port Townsend) are obnoxious, but even worse these noise levels are physically harming people on Whidbey Is and in Forks (high blood pressure, heart disease, mental health issues). Time for the Navy to look at the facts.</p> <p>We have unique coastal waters off our coast, with sensitive ecosystems and wildlife, including endangered species, which are being harmed by Navy activity. There are thousands of miles of ocean waters that could be used instead.</p> <p>This EIS does not consider any accumulative impacts and therefore is so short sighted to be totally inappropriate. And the impacts on wildlife are not anticipated.</p> <p>If this EIS becomes fully operational, the noise level will make vacationing on the Olympic Peninsula no longer a destination, thereby harming the economy of our communities.</p> <p>These are just some of the reasons the EIS is bogus. We the people demand that you protect the environment and the people by ceasing your operation of growlers over the Olympic Peninsula, over the National Park and other operations in and through the waters off the coast of the Olympic peninsula. We demand that you PROTECT for real, NOT harming with the false and limited analysis in the EIS. Please do your job correctly - Protect the people and the land.</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety).</p> <p>The analysis of impacts on wildlife is covered in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences), and the cumulative effects are found in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Tidwell-1	<p>My name is Ken Tidwell. I've lived for a number of years on the Big Island of Hawaii, where I studied Hawaiian language. Ho Opono Pono. I was a member of Intenders of the Highest Good, and I've had many spiritual awakenings, one of which was in relation to whales, which was a telepathic gut-level communication. When the Navy first started operations on the sonar off the Big Island, people were noticing the humpbacks were leaving the islands prematurely than they used to do. And in my gut-level communications with the whales, I felt that they were trying to tell me that they understood human beings, that they loved us. And I felt some remorse that there was something I should do on behalf of the whales. My teacher, my kumu, gave me an ancient Hawaiian name of Kohola, which is an ancient Hawaiian word for whale. My mother used to live with Byrd Baker, who was one of the first people in the state of California, in the late sixties and early seventies, to drive down to the Bay Area with a carved whale on top of his jeep to boycott the Japanese embassy for their continual slaughter of the whales. I am in contact with a diver who is working on behalf of Hawaii wildlife, who has monitored, filmed, and been an advocate for the environment there for many years. His name is Terry Lily. And I have been told by him that these Navy-sponsored public input things are typically just a formality, because they are required by law to do so, which I've just been told by one of the Navy members here to substantiate my belief as to why these public opportunities to speak up on this subject exist. I am also told by a number of people that have worked for many years that NOAA typically green-flags these operations. And to date there has never been opposition to say no. In other words, even with the public outputs, nothing has changed. My desire, my curiosity in participating here tonight, is to find out if there are any members here from the Coastal Commission. Because I am told that the only thing that's different about California than Hawaii is we do have a Coastal Commission. And my purpose of being here is to find out if there's a member of the Coastal Commission, if they've attended this, and if not, why not. And I will follow up after my statement this evening to find out if the Coastal Commission could perhaps be more effective than just simply green-lighting another Navy operation. Just because the public's allowed to speak does not mean that things can change on behalf of sea creatures or the environment. I believe that the ongoing experiments for weapons is an irreversible madness to be the one that has the most weapons that can do the most damage on a global scale, which is a form of sickness in mankind's mind. It's destructive, and it ends in the ultimate doom of all life on this planet, which I think a more</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	reasonable human being would oppose. These are my comments, and I thank you for your time.	
Timm-1	Sonar hurts my ears, Radar etc does not allow me to sleep at night due the the high frequency vibrations I hear. We don't need war machines we need something that will make peace with the environment and development of more sustainable technologies to live in harmony with everyone. Your activities will add to global warming and pollution of the environment. Please no war games along the California Coast.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Timmers-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar testing. It is harmful to marine mammals. Please stop.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Timpson-1	This sonar testing is devastating to marine mammals especially the endangered southern resident orcas who are regularly in the area. Someone explain to me why idling boats must stay 300 yards away because the <b>mouse noise</b> they make is affecting these cetaceans so adversely yet this incredible <b>mouse noise</b> is acceptable. There is no "national security" reasons possible that make this acceptable. Ban sonar testing. Shameful.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Tippett-1	<p>The Navy argues that it has been doing training of this time for a long time and it's "No Action Alternative" is to continue the levels of damage as in the past. Unfortunately, the newer equipment being tested will have significantly more destructive impact on wildlife than that tested in the past. The Navy needs to balance its mission to "properly defend itself" and the well being of the Nation it purports to defend. Within the training area are the transit zones of migratory birds and marine mammals including whales.. Whales have very acute hearing capabilities that marine biologists have shown are damaged by the loud sound pressure levels in seawater that the Navy uses and tests. In addition, whales' "hearing" underwater can range for hundreds of nautical miles. Science has also shows that sudden concussions cause deep diving whales to suddenly charge for the surface, causing nitrogen narcosis in their circulatory systems and death. It is certainly within the range of the Navy's actions to consider the natural world of the planet expendable to its mission of pursuing and defending the imperial incursions of the United States Government, protecting and enabling U.S. based corporations around the world. The Navy could also choose a course of action which defends the future of our Nation's children for generations to come. These two missions, given the climate crisis, would seem to be mutually exclusive. The Navy's testing proposal supports the first, not the second.</p> <p>For these reasons, I request that the Navy re-think its proposed testing regimen, and I support rejecting the proposed EIS as inadequate and drawing inappropriate conclusions.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Tivel-1	<p>We live on the North Fork of the Skagit River directly in line of flights going in and out of Ault Field on Whidbey Island. As the Growlers fly over us they are low and slow on their approach to Ault Field. As a pilot at one of the open house's we attended pointed out to us, we live in one of the maximum noise areas for these flights because of the flight corrections taking place in that space. We have owned our property here for 28 years. During that time we have definitely noticed a big increase in flying and noise levels in our area. We love living here most of the time. It has been our dream home and we hope to live here for a long time going forward. The only negative to that, and it is a huge negative, is the noise levels we have been exposed to when the older Prowlers and now the newer Growlers fly over. As stated in a recent scoping meeting pamphlet the Navy identified the Growler as quieter because scientific measurements indicated that the Growler emits less sound than the Prowler during most flight profiles. Noise levels vary depending on where you are in the flight</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a></p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>pattern. The comprehensive noise study conducted for the 2012 EA acknowledged that the Growler is louder during arrival than the Prowler was. Unfortunately, as far as our neighborhood is concerned, given that we are on the arrival path of the Growler, we experience a much louder noise level, consistently over 105 decibels and sometimes reaching 120 decibels, than the average level reported in your study. NIOSH, the National Institute of Safety and Health, states that noise levels above 85 decibels are considered hazardous and levels above 100 decibels risk permanent hearing loss. At one of the open house's we attended we had a conversation with the folks studying noise levels. They informed us that the average decibel readings, over a 24 hour period, were done using simulations and computer modeling. We don't feel that these models are accurately able to measure the real time maximum sound level experienced in our neighborhoods. It is simply unbearable to be outside and not much better in the house. We can feel the house and windows shake as the planes pass over. We have to plug our ears as the planes fly over. This is no exaggeration. We have observed the wildlife and domestic animals cower and try to get away from the deafening level of jet noise. Conversation, talking on the phone, listening to or playing music or watching TV is impossible. My wife is a medical provider and is unable to consult with other providers or her patients when the need arises when she is at home during periods of flight training exercises. We had to spend over \$2000 for hearing aids for my wife at the age of 61. She had to purchase a \$400 amplified stethoscope so that she could continue to work in her family practice clinic. Our guess was the jet noise played a part in that hearing loss. We have had good neighbors move away because of the noise and our property values are going down. We are approaching 70 years old now. With the Navy's decision to add aircraft and increase flights we are afraid we will also have to move instead of enjoying our retirement where we had hoped.</p> <p>We know that training is essential. We would urge you to use actual field measurements in the affected areas of the noise level readings during different phases of flying. It is our hope that the navy will reconsider the concerns of all its neighbors, environmental agencies, and health organizations and not add more planes and flights to Whidbey Island. We also hope that all alternatives will be looked at including noise suppression and relocating training to less populated areas.</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Toffoli-1	PLEASE! Stop that cruelty, please. You do not own the animals. The world is being destroyed because humans have no compassion. Enough to take so many lives 😞😞😞😞	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Tolotti-1	Stop Navy Sonar testing in PNW waters! This effects ALL marine life but most importantly our precious endangered group of southern resident orca!! These whales need our help not more destruction in their native waters!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Tomczak-1	The area under consideration is one of the most peaceful and stunning places on earth. The species potential affected are numerous. My family and I implore you to consider these factors and deny a renewed permit. Human beings need quiet places to escape from the pressures of city life. These spaces should be preserved as sanctuaries for humans and animals. Thank you for your consideration.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Tooch-1	This has got to stop!! Our oceans are directly related to our survival. Killing sea life just isn't acceptable in this fragile state that we are in presently. Stop sonar!!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Torrance-1	This will deeply affect the PNW. Whales are a wonder of this world that need to be preserved and nurtured NOT exposed to testing merely because of their habitat.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Tough-1	<p>I am very upset that Growlers are flying over Olympic National Park disturbing the quiet of this beautiful natural area that has been set aside for the pleasure and NEEDS of Americans. Specifically I am concerned about Vets who have served our nation and have come home with psychic scars because of battles and warfare they have been in.</p> <p>Many vets had found their way here to the Peninsula, specifically Olympic National Park, a place known as the park that is the quietest in our nation. Here they found peace and solitude, here they could begin to heal, here they began to shed anxiety and stress left from their time serving in the military.</p> <p>I live in Uptown Port Townsend and hear the Growlers and wonder what damage is happening to the historic buildings which I adore. I would risk these buildings and offer more flyovers here to save the park, to save the quiet, so those vets and any of the rest of humanity who need quietness and nature to have the opportunity to recover and heal.</p> <p>Please stop the Growlers going over the Olympic National Park!</p>	<p>Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year. When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military</li> </ol>

Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		<p>averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</p> <p>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</p> <p>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</p>
Toulgoat-1	<p>the navy is the biggest polluter, poisoner, and destroyer, the biggest threat to a safe, healthy environment...there is nothing safe about Coupeville OLF....NO crash zones unless you count our homes, schools, and hospital. Taxpayers have already bought and paid for state of art infrastructure at LEMOORE use it and get the hell out of Whibey, no room for jets.navy is the worst neighbor ever. remember the navys operating code.."PROTECTING YOUR FREEDOM WHILE WE POISON YOUR ENVIRONMENT" after the navy has f!@\$%^ed up everything nice, what the hell will you defend then ?</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a></p>
Toulgoat-2	<p>Stop The Rape of Whidbey by navy jet trash... protecting your freedom while we poison your environment. <i>[expletive deleted]</i> the jets...</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Whidbey Island. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a></p>
Tracy-1	<p>U.S. Navy get the plastics out of our Pacific Ocean and our food chain! I demand a true public hearing where those attending can hear and respond to the community's comments in total. The slick marketing of your plan by non-naval personnel is off putting and not appropriate to activities with such a magnitude of harm.</p>	<p>The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.</p>
Tracy-2	<p>Your plan to monitor potential harm is ineffective as many species deaths will sink undetected to the ocean floor. The National Marine Fisheries Service permit that allows harm to blue whales 9,248 times and short beaked common dolphins 6.8 millions is a mockery of protecting our</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	marine mammals & other species. A deaf whale is a dead whale. No sonar soundings are safe or acceptable. Your plan will harm our viable tourist industry with such pollution as well as our migratory whale festivals each year of which we are economically dependent. U.S. Navy Dept. of Defense, not Offense, to US citizens and the millions of ocean individuals under our protection.	EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Tracy-3	I don't believe the Draft EIS/OEIS takes into account the acidification of the ocean and the effects that will have on the tonnage of heavy metals that will be left to pollute our fragile marine ecosystem. I witnessed the effects of high pitched sound on a pod of orcas and it was clear that they grouped together trying to avoid the sound with no way to avoid. This is cruel and unusual punishment to mammals who we still have so much to learn about. Sonar can explode the eardrums of not only whales but other marine species causing irreparable harm when our fishing industry is threatened by the loss of kelp. A recent whale beaching in SoCal showed significant amounts of plastic. That is the real threat to Americans. Micro plastics at every depth of the ocean.	The Navy discusses ocean acidification in the context of climate change in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) and 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality) of the SEIS and includes information from scientific studies conducted since 2015. The Navy acknowledged in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) that "metals tend to dissociate" in more acidic ocean conditions. The Navy added a reference back to these two sections in the sections analyzing the impacts of explosives (Section 3.1.4.1) and metals (Section 3.1.4.2). Note that corrosion can also act to insulate ordnance and other metal items from contact with seawater and sediments, slowing or even halting further corrosion and movement of metals into the adjacent sediments and water column. The effects of climate change on the ocean environment, particularly effects specific to a particular region like ocean waters in the Pacific Northwest, continue to be researched and to evolve and are not necessarily predictable. For example, as described in Section 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality), increases in ocean acidity are believed to reduce the availability of carbonate in the water column, which is needed by organisms to generate calcium carbonate structures. However, increases in sea surface temperature associated with climate change appear to stimulate calcification at an even greater rate, essentially overriding the inhibiting effects of lower pH levels and leading to unexpected high abundance of corallinophores (which build protective scales from calcium carbonate) in some ocean regions.
Traversino-1	Please move this operation to somewhere that does not have the real possibility of hurting or killing endangered whales.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Treadway-1	Please I implore you not to conduct these tests! They are cruel immoral inhumane torture criminal not necessary! You all are educated people of science you know better...please do better! Empathy love compassion and a morale compass should be required in every and all fields!	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Treanor-1	<p>Please respect the Southern Resident Orcas' Endangered Species status and take steps to mitigate further harm - prohibit testing and training in these waters. Please ban sonar and explosives in these waters, as these activities can harm marine life. Our Southern Residents need quiet in order to "hear" their prey.</p> <p>As a reminder, during a 2003 training session, the J pod quit foraging and instead spent time and calories trying to leave the area instead of hunting and eating.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Please read the discussion of the event involving the USS SHOUP presented in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and the cited U.S. Department of the Navy (2004) <i>Report on the Results of the Inquiry into Allegations of Marine Mammal Impacts Surrounding the Use of Active Sonar by USS SHOUP (DDG 86) in the Haro Strait on or about 5 May 2003</i>. Pearl Harbor, HI: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for an accurate understanding of the event involving the USS SHOUP in 2003.</p>
Treesinger-1	<p>Using studies that were conducted as far back as 1984 for source material for your EIS/OEIS draft is wholly unacceptable. So far this year, 70 gray whales washed ashore on the west coast, five times the average rate. And I am concerned.</p> <p>NOAA has declared a wildlife emergency. The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that "military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor". At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that "for the most part," this material will be ingested by bottom feeders, including the Gray whales which is a bottom feeder. The SEIS needs to take into account the already stressed gray whale population. Scientific studies have shown that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, listening is the way they see and communicate and is integral to their survival. Under these circumstances, will the Navy provide updated studies in the OEIS reflecting the current crisis? Until NOAA's study on the die-off on the Gray Whales is complete, shouldn't any disruption of the ocean by sonar and explosive activity be halted?</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy uses the most current marine mammal population data available from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The 2008 and 2010 references cited in the comment were not used by the Navy to determine current populations.</p> <p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gray-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gray-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a>  <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a>  The economic considerations are well-stated in the letter of opposition to sonar testing off the coast of Mendocino County by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in their letter to you dated April 21, 2019. To paraphrase: sonar and explosive testing off the Mendocino coast is detrimental to the fragile oceanic ecosystem on which we rely. The wide variety of sea life is a key economic source for our county and must not be damaged in any way.  Will you please slow down this process to allow enough time for current scientific data to be added to your SEIS?</p>	<p>partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p>
Trejo-1	<p>My first comment would be that I really appreciate you guys coming over and giving us information of what is going on. Although I like the setup, I don't like where it's at. I don't feel like a school site is appropriate for a public hearing like this, because I feel like it puts the teachers that would otherwise come and voice their opinion or make a comment or want to learn more in a pickle. The superintendent approved me to be here, but they did not approve any other organizations to be here tonight. So we have about 500-plus administrative people between all the sites, and I don't think it's okay that they would feel in a pickle, just from my personal conversations with the teachers around this area, that they feel uncomfortable coming and voicing their opinion. I also believe that's why we have a lot of people missing here. Because they're the most informed in what's going on in the community. I know that you guys got this for free, so for future reference, there is the library that has a free room to do this at. And it's a public library, so that everyone could come and share their comments. The second thing is I was talking to some of your information people, and I feel like I got a lot of good information. Overall, my final decision is that I don't agree with any of the testing, not just in this area, but in the whole northwest coast. I know that you guys have a base in Washington and that it would mostly be based there; however, if it gets permitted in the whole area that they're proposing it to, then we as civilians wouldn't get notice, the fisherman would, and you guys can change your minds at any point over what site you would choose to use. Over here in Fort Bragg, it's a very seasonal place. And we have whale festivals, we have multiple whale activities, and people come to visit because they see the whales offshore. And I know that it doesn't kill them, but the fact that it does Level B harassment on the whales and that it could</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Navy will continue to evaluate the best locations to conduct its public meetings, and the concern you raise will be helpful.</p> <p>The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	change their behavioral patterns and whether they come around or not would be a huge impact to our community here in Mendocino. Because we have whale watching, whale festivals, we base everything off of the sea life. And that is our main resource of income now that we don't have logging. So I think that's something to consider when they are making their final decision, that it could impact a whole economy on the coast.	
Trick-Thornton-1	<p>"Is the Navy going to continue on with testing without the results of the NOAA investigation into the 2019 mass beachings/deaths of West Coast whales"? How could they continue without results?</p> <p>Since the Navy is currently testing, and the Navy is asking for permission to continue testing, the above question needs an answer !!</p> <p>The Navy's soundings, detonated explosions will have a residual affect on ALL mammals and leave a residue in the ocean.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Trinh-1	Please stop the naval sonar testing. It kills marine life. Please.	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Trolin-1	<p>Ecosystems are not complicated, they are complex systems— in a complicated system one can pull out and repair the offending mistake, re-insert, and voila, complicated system fixed. Ecosystem complexity is a chain of irreplaceable relationships tied to a place. If these relationships are not maintained, the system fails.</p> <p>We have mistaken our relationship with our ecosystems, in our centuries-old industrial delight with ourselves, as tinkering with yet another complicated system. We are finally having to reckon with the fact that we do not comprehend the brilliant complexity of our earth's wild and complex</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>systems and that we are killing our own home.</p> <p>To me, and if you as the branch of government tasked with protecting me and keeping me safe, in fact want to actually do that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spend half of your budget helping restore the tipping and damaged eco-balance of our water, earth &amp; air. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Stop disrupting our already fragile watery balance of our coast, with harmful &amp; unnatural sound and pollutants. Our necessary quiet with growlers and pollutants. And our earth with more compacting, noise making &amp; pollution spewing.</li> <li>b. Roughly 50 years ago humans began using more of our earth's resources than can be replenished. You are the largest military behemoth on the planet and responsible for an oversized portion of this resource loss. Without the ecosystem balance of this planet intact, money is a meaningless "resource".</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Spend the other half of your budget developing technologies of peace. Image that world! <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In the name protection you destabilize every ecosystem to which you come in contact. Look to how to protect through peaceful engagement-- (towards people, animals, plants air, earth &amp; water).</li> <li>b. Example: the equatorial band of our planet will be uninhabitable in less than 50 years, and every human and animal in that band will attempt to migrate north or south on our fragile blue pearl. These people (and animals) are not our enemy, they are us. How will you help?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>I realize that this is not a technological refuting of your plans for my home, but I'm sure you will have received a lot of that in this comment period. What I am asking is that you really look around. I am asking that you see that the paradigm has already shifted. Rise to that challenge with all your brain power and resources as my military. You could actually be of help. The earth has room for us, but it does not need us. The wildness of this planet in all its complexity is the reason we survive as a species. Earth cannot and will not tolerate-- and in fact is not, tolerating human domination. (paraphrase of writer Robert Bringham)</p>	
Trugenberger -1	Don't use the Dolphins as bomb. It's not correct	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Trugenberger -1	Please don't use dolphins or any other animals for your purposes. It's cruel and they are born to be free and we as humans have no right to use them as objects.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Trygstad-1	I strongly oppose all weapons testing and military practice activity that even might possibly affect wildlife off the pristine coasts of Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt counties of California. I am a registered voter and have participated in every election since I was 18 in 1981.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p>



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Tsantis-1	<p>Dear Sonar Representatives,</p> <p>Under no circumstances is sonar testing acceptable when marine life is so threatened by human impact as it is. We already have decimated species with oil leaks, plastic and chemical waste, crowded seaways where whales are run over by shipping liners and killed, shall I go on??</p> <p>Please please be respectful of the Orca population that are dwindling and need our help to survive. Please be mindful that NO WILDLIFE SHOULD SUFFER FROM PAINFUL SONAR vibrations and sounds. That's disgusting!! That you would think this is ok!!! It's not!! Our wealth is in our wildlife and flourishing ecosystems! Not in armaments!! Our planet and it's wildlife are calling for us to STOP KILLING OUR PLANET!! It's more important, now more than ever, to give to our planet, prioritize and care for it. Before it's too late 🌍🙏</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Tuck-1	<p>I believe the NAVY already knows what this does to cetaceans. I am a US citizen and I am 100% against sonar blasting a and testing of any kind! I would like to see an end to all sonar frequencies that Ken Balcomb has researched to be harmful. The book by him, War of the Whales, shows how much effort has been made to stop this barbaric practice to save the whales. Let's end this and never revisit this topic again. Please stop using harmful sonar testing and blasting at all but, especially where a critically endangered species is actively trying to survive! There are two babies out there, for goodness sakes have a dam heart!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Tucker-1	<p>Imagine living in an environment where you couldn't get away from that awful noise, day in day out and couldn't protect your family from it either. It has to stop we are killing our oceans and their inhabitants which will eventually be our downfall as we need the oceans to survive</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

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<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
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Turley-1	<p>Our orca populations are struggling. It's vitally important that we as a people recognize this, and do what we can to mitigate it.</p> <p>If that means sonar can only be used in certain places or times, then that's what we need to do. We are going to wind up presiding over the final years of many of our oceanic species if we don't understand and care about the affect we have on these creatures' populations.</p> <p>Human beings have long passed the point that they can do what they want in the natural world without repercussions. We have to do what we must now to make up for the mistakes of the past.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Turnoy-1	<p>The things I want to see avoided are as follows:</p> <p>Navy personnel emerging on beaches where families are recreating.</p> <p>Sonar that disturbs whales, who are currently threatened with extinction in our area.</p> <p>Electromagnetic radiation that affects animals.</p> <p>Growler flights that are so loud that they stop school classes from being conducted.</p> <p>If you can avoid these things while still conducting your training, then go for it. But what is the point of training your people to protect our quality of life if there is no quality of life due to your actions?</p>	<p>The Navy's proposed activities do not include Navy personnel emerging on beaches where families are recreating.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>
Turnoy-2	<p>The Navy is ruining the quality of life in the Northwest for not only humans but other creatures as well. Your Growler flights have just been increased</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>with the addition of 36 new jets. The noise from these flights is unbelievable, even interrupting classrooms. Is this the sound of freedom? I don't think so. This whole flight training needs to be moved to where there aren't people living.</p> <p>As to nonhuman creatures, our Orca whales are currently at a 30-year low in population. Their communication system is very advanced, and your sonar totally interrupts their communication and is helping to cause their demise. The Orca is the signature animal in the Northwest, and you are causing its eventual extinction.</p> <p>The US needs to stop doing so much training and focus on war. The world is so dangerous because of our bellicose, aggressive, intrusive foreign policy and the maintenance of an empire. Let's end this and spend our money for life, not for killing. Someone needs to say no to this military industrial complex warned about 60 years ago by President Eisenhower, a military man. Why don't the folks with the Navy in the Northwest make it their business to end this madness?</p>	<p>the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Twieten-1	<p>The government and big businesses need to stop <i>[expletive deleted]</i> with the oceans. You work for the ppl.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Twomey-1	<p>Approximately 26 gray whales have been found dead since the beginning of the year 2019 along the California coast. Since dead whales can sink, there probably are many more that did not show up on land.</p> <p>Populations of starfish, giant kelp, and abalone have been devastated in recent years. Purple sea urchins are thriving and appear to be monopolizing the delicate ecosystem along the California coast. Diversity of species is noticeably declining.</p> <p>Small particles of plastic are being digested by many sea creatures and the long term consequences are not yet known.</p> <p>Large masses of plastic, other man made debris, and possibly traces of Fukushima nuclear waste have made their way into the Pacific Ocean.</p> <p>Can the U.S. Navy guarantee that the proposed Northwest Training and Testing combined with all or any of the above will not be the TIPPING POINT for accelerated decline of an already threatened and fragile ecosystem and food chain ?</p> <p>In the spirit of symbiosis, can the U.S. Navy re-direct these funds to more dolphin and whale research to better understand their sonar abilities and apply what is learned to improving US Navy Sonar technology ? Although a Science Fiction novel, the book LEAP by Michael C Grumley can show how to use creativity to ultimately improve our understanding of sound, tones, acoustics, and movement and apply this better understanding to improving sonar technology and our ability to detect foreign objects in the sea. Has the US Navy team involved in the testing EIS done any creative brainstorming to assess alternatives to this testing ?</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Tyner-1	<p>Do NOT release these so called "stressors" into Any environment. The ocean is a living organism and supports living creatures. Introducing</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	anything into this environment will have a negative impact on the lives within.	(Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
<b>U</b>		
Uphoff-1	<p>To those it should concern,</p> <p>If those suggesting this EIS is valid take the time to live for even 2 weeks on the Mendocino Coast and become in touch with the marine environment there, then they would know, that such testing off the Mendocino Coast would mean environmental disaster. Any scientist who has done even the most basic research and is truthful in their findings would include the facts that the sonar the navy uses bursts and/or leads to burst eardrums of sea mammals, and the underwater mines and missiles they explode are live ammunition and full of toxins - that need to be cleaned up but aren't! None of this testing is necessary close to shore or at all. Most particularly NOT in our local Mendocino ocean where the marine life congregates to breed and feed on a great upwelling of nutrients and the entire food web that supports.</p> <p>Our oceans have barely hung on through the effects of Fukushima and current climate changes. We have had massive kelp, bird and fish die-offs and whales and dolphins have to reroute even more densely to shore due to effects of cold current changes. We have more species to support coming from the south where waters have become too warm.</p> <p>Please pay attention to the fact that if the ocean is ruined - so are all those whose it supports - including human and whole communities.</p> <p>View these below and wake up!</p> <p>In peace and wellness,</p> <p>Karin Uphoff</p> <p><a href="https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2013/court-rules-that-federal-agency-failed-to-protect-thousands-of-whales-and-dolphins-from-navy-sonar">https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2013/court-rules-that-federal-agency-failed-to-protect-thousands-of-whales-and-dolphins-from-navy-sonar</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2018/navy-training-exercises-12-20-2018.php">https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2018/navy-training-exercises-12-20-2018.php</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.hcn.org/articles/military-alaskans-at-war-with-u-s-military-over-readiness-exercises">https://www.hcn.org/articles/military-alaskans-at-war-with-u-s-military-over-readiness-exercises</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/">https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-military-sonar-kill/</a></p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Urbano-1	<p>Please do not continue with the fossil fuel death sentence to our planet.</p> <p>Please have mercy with the remainder individuals of this endangered creatures.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,</p>

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<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Utamie-1	Orca needs help A.S.A.P Please join	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>V</b>		
Van Buskirk-1	Please stop the "WAR PLAY". You as an ELITE GROUP PAID TO PROTECT AND DEFEND or ENJOY THE POWER AND GAMING. BETWEEN THE TOXINS LEFT BEHIND AND DISREGARD FOR OUR PLANET AND LIFE IN GENERAL...UNBELIEVABLE PERMANENT LOSS FOR ALL!!! Blessed Be Mother Earth 🙏🙏🙏	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Van der Eerden-1	Stop testing in Our oceans	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Van Galder-1	<p>So disheartening to learn of plans to greatly expand training exercises for Growler pilots in our pristine Pacific Northwest where our wildlife and citizens enjoy scenic tranquility so rarely found in our country. I've learned there are many other suitable sites for such training among 6 or 7 states.</p> <p>Hard to understand how justification is provided with the casual'cavilier statement for justification: "it's convenient".</p> <p>My understanding is first and foremost our government is to foster the concept of "pursuit of liberty and happiness" for us all. Well, what's happening seems to be oppositional to this. What truly mystifies me is that the government is not only not protecting our citizenry but is deliberating taking action to promote the decimation of the aforementioned ideals. The incessant noise of these growlers should be transferred to one of various sites relatively uninhabited (i.e. Utah, Texas, etc.).</p> <p>I'm not arguing with our need for military protection, but have serious questions related to the cavalier attitude expressed regarding a decision that will have long lasting adverse consequences on the quality and livability of life on our beautiful peninsula.</p>	<p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
van Groning-1	I urge you to end with the underwater sonar testing wich have been proven to cause massive harm to marine animals. I am 100% against underwater sonar testing. I hope and pray you will decide to end these underwater sonar testings.	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
van Kuijk-1	Please stop sonar testing. I work with marine animals and sonar sounds are extremely harmful to them.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Van Ness-1	Please do not empty these harmful items into Puget Sound. We are trying to clean up the waters not contaminate them more. People and sealife go in these waters. The orcas are disappearing. We eat fish from these waters. Please do not dispose of these items in such a thoughtless harmful way.	In the course of the Navy proposed activities (listed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS), some expended materials are left behind in the ocean. The potential impacts of these actions was thoroughly analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
van Noppen-1	Please do not move your electronic warfare training to NW Washington. The "Growler" jets flying 5,000 times a year will disturb, scare the whole Olympic Peninsula. The people, the bird flyway, other birds and animals. It will also disturb the Marine Sanctuary. The Olympic National Park is one of	Aircraft flights over the Olympic Peninsula are not new. The Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	the last quiet places on earth. Your jets will ruin that. Thank you for considering these things.	<p>While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year. When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol>
Van Strum-1	<p>The Supplemental EIS with a few magic keystrokes completely redefines the No Action Alternative, a key element of all previous Navy environmental documents, thus precluding any valid comparison to the 2015 EIS that it supposedly supplements:</p> <p>ES-4: No-Action Alternative: "Under this approach, which was used in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, the analysis compares the effects of continuing current activity levels (i.e., the "status quo") with the effects of the Proposed Action. The second approach depicts a scenario where no authorizations or permits are issued, in which the Proposed Action does not take place, and the resulting environmental effects from taking no action are compared with the effects of implementing the proposed action. The Navy applied the second approach in this Supplemental in response to comments.... Consequently, the No Action Alternative is inherently unreasonable because it does not meet the purpose and need."</p> <p>To clarify the import of this change: -- ALL previous Navy environmental statements and documents have</p>	<p>In regards to providing a "continuing action" No Action Alternative, the Navy applied a scenario where no authorizations or permits are issued, the Navy's training and testing activities do not take place, and the resulting environmental effects from taking no action were compared with the effects of the Proposed Action (refer to Section 2.4.2.1 [No Action Alternative] of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS). This approach supports NMFS' regulatory process by presenting the scenario where no authorization will be issued. Additionally, this approach responds to comments submitted at various stages regarding the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and during the scoping process of this SEIS/OEIS. However, Section 2.4.1 (Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration) has been expanded to include a Continuing Action Alternative. This alternative considers no change to the training and testing activities as approved in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and the Navy consulting with NMFS under the MMPA. The Navy determined that this alternative did not meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action after thorough consideration.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>defined the No Action Alternative to mean the alternative of maintaining the status quo, i.e., current levels of actions and impacts. Proposed alternatives were compared to those current levels of actions and impacts, clearly showing increases in actions and impacts.</p> <p>-- The No Action Alternative is now arbitrarily redefined in the Supplement to mean the Alternative of no Navy activities whatsoever.</p> <p>-- This redefinition removes from all consideration the option of continuing status quo current levels of activities. In short, the only Supplement alternatives are to cease all Navy operations or to accept a proposed/preferred alternative.</p> <p>-- Removing the status quo from its analyses also removes any comparison between current levels of actions and impacts with proposed levels, i.e., removing any data showing how greatly such levels and impacts will increase over previous ones.</p> <p>This redefinition creates havoc with all discussions, tables, and appendices addressing the increased or decreased number of activities, bombs, ordnance, expended materials, etc., in which the "No Action Alternative" column or statement is either omitted entirely, or is inexplicably replaced in the Supplement by a "2015 Final EIS/OEIS" column or statement.</p> <p>To change so fundamental an element of an EIS requires an entirely new EIS, rather than a confusing and ultimately pointless supplement, since it most definitely does NOT supplement the 2015 EIS, it supplants it completely. In so doing, it destroys any possibility of rational decision-making by the Navy, or rational observations and comments by scientists, legislators, concerned members of the public et al., required by NEPA..</p> <p>THE FORMAT, ORGANIZATION, AND CONTENT OF THE SUPPLEMENT DIFFER RADICALLY FROM THE 2015 EIS/OEIS</p> <p>Largely due to the redefined No Action alternative, the format, organization, and content of the Supplement differ so drastically from the 2015 EIS/OEIS that it is difficult if not impossible to compare amounts and impacts of past, current, and proposed actions.</p> <p>For example, see Supplement, Appendix F Military Expended Material and Direct Strike Impact Analyses, Table F-2 (page F-11): "Number and Impacts of Military Expended Materials Proposed for Use During Training Activities in a Single Year Under Alternatives 1 and 2." This table lists the number of bombs, bullets, chaff, targets, sonobuoys, torpedoes, etc. for Alternatives 1 and 2, with totals of each category for each alternative. Table F-3 (F-14) lists the amounts of such expended materials during Testing Activities, again with totals of each category for each alternative. However, because</p>	<p>As stated in Section 2.4.2.1 (No Action Alternative) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, "the analysis associated with the No Action Alternative is carried forward in order to compare the magnitude of the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Actions with the conditions that would occur if the Proposed Action did not occur." The No Action Alternative was sufficiently analyzed, and a Supplemental Draft EIS/OEIS is not warranted.</p> <p>The Navy has taken a hard look at the cumulative effects of the incremental impact of its proposed actions when added to other past present and future actions, against the appropriate resources and regulatory baselines. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop its Cumulative Impacts analysis. As required under NEPA, the level and scope of the analysis is commensurate with the potential impacts of the action as reflected in the resource-specific EIS, discussions in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental consequences). The EIS/OEIS considered its activities alongside other actions in the region when those impacts are cumulatively significant. Past and present actions are also included in the analytical process as part of the affected environment baseline conditions presented in Chapter 3. The Navy has done so in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality 1997 guidance. Per the guidance, a qualitative approach and best professional judgment are appropriate where precise measurements are not available. Where precise measurements and/or methodologies were available they were used. Guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality states it "is not practical to analyze cumulative effects of an action on the universe; the list of environmental effects must focus on those that are truly meaningful."</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>the Supplement tables do not include a column of 2015 status quo data and because there are no corresponding discussions or tables in the 2015 EIS/OEIS, there is simply no way to tell how much any activity or item will be increased or decreased since 2015. Given that the whole point of issuing a supplement is to indicate such increases or decreases, this massive discrepancy renders the Supplement useless.</p> <p>This is not an insignificant issue. For example, comparing the annual expended training materials totals for the preferred alternative in Supplement Table F-2 (above) to the only comparable data available, annual totals for preferred alternative in Table 3.4-33 (page 3.4-55) in the 2010 NWTT Final EIS, the increases since then are well beyond unequivocally significant:</p> <p>2010: "No Action" status quo total = 98,161 expended training materials total</p> <p>2010: Preferred alternative total = 189,299 expended training materials total</p> <p>Increase from No Action status quo = 98,138</p> <p>2019: Preferred alternative total = 321,364 expended training materials total</p> <p>Increase from 2010 preferred alternative = 131,065</p> <p>Increase from 2010 status quo = 229,203</p> <p>Nor is this an isolated fluke in the Supplement, which repeatedly omits any baseline data in its proposed alternatives, such as the useless charts in Appendix E, which supposedly estimates impacts to various marine species from sonar and explosions. There are NO data from 2015 or any other time to compare these impacts to, making it impossible to determine whether the impacts have increased or decreased.</p> <p>By changing the definition of "No Action alternative," the Supplement conveniently and misleadingly omits such comparisons, so the public has no idea of the magnitude of the Navy's continuously metastasizing activities and clogging of our ocean with its "expended" materials, especially when the Supplement admits openly to analyzing impacts without looking at such increases, e.g., "Although the overall amount of metals introduced to the Study Area would increase, the analysis is not dependent on quantifying that amount." (Supplement, p. 3.1-27).</p> <p>Because the 2010 "No Action" status quo data are, as the Navy asserts, "representative of activities the military has been conducting in the study area for decades," one must assume at least two prior decades at the same level. Furthermore, it is important to recognize that these data represent</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>annual deposition of such materials, year after year, increasing by more than 100 percent each decade. One need only look up the Navy's record of such behavior in Vieques, or a map of the Gulf of Mexico seafloor, littered with Navy expended and unexploded ordnance dumped there, to question severely the Navy's repeated cavalier assumptions of no significant impact. REDEFINING NO ACTION INVALIDATES THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION OF CUMULATIVE IMPACT</p> <p>By redefining "No Action," thereby absolving themselves of quantifying increases in activities and impacts, the Supplement nullifies any possibility of analyzing the cumulative impacts of such increases. Instead, the "Cumulative Impacts" section of the Supplement repeatedly refers back to itself or to the 2015 EIS/OEIS to reach entirely unsupported boiler-plate conclusions -- repeated like a mantra for every habitat, animal, bird, sea turtle, etc. -- that "further analysis of cumulative impacts on [insert animal here] is not warranted."</p> <p>The "Cumulative Impacts" section is also seriously defective in omitting any mention of similar, often identical, U.S. Navy activities in the Pacific Ocean. While the Navy issues environmental impact statements for its activities off southern California, Hawaii, Alaska, the Mariana Islands, etc., nowhere does it examine or analyze the combined effects of all these activities on the entirety of the ocean itself. These Navy activities all together have profound impacts that are not limited to the geographical confines of any Navy operation areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Hazardous materials, toxics, heavy metals, plastics, solvents, etc. are carried throughout the ocean, as was so dramatically demonstrated by the arrival on our shores of debris and radiation from the Fukushima disaster in Japan.</li> <li>-- Each Navy operations area contributes incrementally to rising carbon dioxide levels and the warming and acidification of the entire Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>-- Whales, turtles, fish, and other marine life move freely throughout the Pacific Ocean, which in its entirety is their habitat.</li> </ul> <p>The cumulative impacts of all Navy activities in the Pacific must therefore be addressed, either in a new EIS including all Navy operations areas, or at the very least in the "Cumulative Impacts" sections of this Supplement and other separate Navy EIS documents. (See 40 CFR § 1508.25)</p> <p>For the above reasons, the 2019 Supplement should be withdrawn and either a new EIS or totally rewritten Supplement be issued, without redefinitions of alternatives compromising all analyses.</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Van Wyck-1	I am a Former Bellingham / Seattle resident And the safety of the southern resident orca populations as well as the protection of our other marine life is very important to me, I understand that the Navy is required to run tests and drills however there needs to be more regulations for doing so, such as the navy doing their best to stay away from sensitive marine life and habitats. Sonar testing is very painful to these animals the southern resident killer whales already have enough problems as it is without being bombarded by our Navy	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Vanderhoek-1	We need to protect our sea life, not hurt it by testing things that don't need to be improved.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Vashnevsky-1	Navy's Sonars exercise in the Oceans costing lives of Mammals. Sonars noise burning all the tissues in their ears eventually deafness & death. If we lose all these creatures ? What's going to happen to our own future ? You think we can exist without them ? Not a chance. Our future depends on every Mammals we got in the Oceans. I am asking this for next generations 🙏 Thank you	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Vashnevsky-2	Navy Sonars exercise in the Oceans damaging all mammals ears, this noise will burn their ears Tissues & they will be def in no time and eventually they	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	die 🙏 Whiteout these creatures God knows what will happen to our own lives and our future existence. Which we all should be worried.	and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Veitch-1	Against it!	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Venarchick-1	No more military training in the national parks located on the Olympic Peninsula. Our natural habitat needs to be preserved, completely and in solitude for the mental health of our people's and for the physical health of our parks and the wildlife within. The military already has vast swaths of land under its control and within the borders of military bases. Use that land.	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Vergara-1	I'm against what U.D navy is doing in the ocean affecting marine life. This doubt be more control by government and respect other beings life.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li></ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Vermeulen-1	<p>Rachel Carson, author and environmentalist, called the oceans "the great mother of life".</p> <p>Without healthy oceans there will little future for the land. The marine mammals that are being deafened, terrified, killed due to military testing, are essential to the ocean's balance. Please halt this assault for the present and future of " the great mother". Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Vernet-1	<p>Sonars must not be allowed to disrupt whales and other marine animals. It means certain death to them.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Verschuyt-1	<p>I live six miles from the Ault Field runways in Oak Harbor, Washington. I hear Jets passing over my home frequently, daily. I go to the Olympic National Park and the coast of the Olympic peninsula to have a break from all the noise, the pollution of the Jets, the low-flying Jets below FAA</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	regulated altitudes, the stress of it all. Please do not take away my refuge of peace and quiet by flying over the Olympic Peninsula Coast.	MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.
Vidayer-1	The military including the Navy is amongst the most polluting activities on the planet. These past & planned activities kill thousands of marine mammals and dump tons of toxic materials into the already stressed ocean. The cumulative effects are disastrous in this time of climate change catastrophe. Who is the Navy's enemy? Who will protect us from the Navy.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Vilardo-1	Sonar testing harms marine mammals. Please reconsider your decision to allow such testing. I own a dive store and am very concerned about the health and well-being of all ocean inhabitants.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Vincenzi-1	From Italy we say stop this and save the srkw	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Viola-1	Please please please stop doing underwater stressful sounds for the conservation and protecting of marine life. They already are under so much	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	stress, searching for food they don't find, sounds from boats, plastic and chemicals pollution, and more. Please, if you care a little for our planet and nature, stop it now.	Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Vitorino-1	I am 100% against sonar testing. It is unacceptable.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Vitorino-2	I ask that you stop sonar testing in the Salish Sea. This is harmful to the animals in this ecosystem; which is already in a fragile state. Your testing is unnecessary and dangerous to this ecosystem and the animals that live here. I ask that you stop this testing promptly.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Voigtlander-Panagiotou-1	It is time to stop bombarding the oceans and the seas with noise pollution! The evidence is clear that all marine creatures are adversely affected by sonar testing, by underwater explosions, and by the constant bombardment of their senses. It is harmful, affecting their hearing, their bodies and their brains(cognitively making them disoriented, causing them to beach themselves and even causing death). There is too much overall pollution and harmful garbage in the seas already. The Navy should not be using these weapons, for that is what they have become, when it is proven that there are other methods. The seas are not ours to destroy. The harm and subsequent death of marine life affects the overall biodiversity as such also affecting us. Enough is enough!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
von Christierson-1	See attached comments Please extend the comment period to a total of 90 days. The "No Action Alternative" is the only one that makes sense for the Olympic Peninsula.	The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activities stated in this EIS will damage Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.</li> <li>• This training operation will change one of the quietest places in America, Olympic National Park/Hoh Rainforest, to never again.</li> <li>• Since 1907, areas of the Olympic Peninsula have been set aside to protect the Peninsula wildlife. Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt and a series of congressional acts, this protection is in wildlife refuges, a national park for the enjoyment of its citizens, elk, other unique wildlife, wilderness areas to protect the resources from human damage, and a national marine sanctuary. The area the Navy wishes to convert into an electronic warfare training area has been designated as an environmentally sensitive area for 112 years.</li> <li>• In the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the EIS is asking for extension of a NOAA permit for "incidental takes of marine mammals... and incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine species." [EIS p. ES-4]</li> <li>• The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary was set aside by Congress to protect the sea life of the area. The Naval activities will cause unnecessary damage and should be and can be, done elsewhere.</li> <li>• The noise of jet training emitter search flights will be harmful to the wildlife, people of the Peninsula, and the visitors to it. This makes the plan a detriment to the health and economy of the Peninsula and the state of Washington.</li> <li>• Idaho and Nevada training areas were designed for warfare training—the Olympic Peninsula was not.</li> <li>• This is not the way to treat a national park or a marine sanctuary. They were created to protect our environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy says there will be 5,000 "Growler" jet flights a year over the Olympics. [EIS Appendix J, p. 12] (This would be an average of more than 19 search flights per day over the "Study Area"-5000 flights/260 days). This does not include training flights going out to and from vessels off the coast.</li> <li>• Noise levels (admitted to by the Navy) within the Olympic airspace range from over 80 dB to 100 dB at times [EIS J-22], which the Navy compares to hearing a garbage disposal to a handheld drill [EIS p. J-5]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Continued exposure to noise above 85 dBA (adjusted decibels) over time will cause hearing loss. The volume (dBA) and the length of exposure to the sound will tell you how harmful the noise is. In general, the louder the noise, the less time required before hearing loss will occur." [Center for Hearing and Communication]</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with the National Marine Sanctuary Program regulations and the interagency consultation requirements of National Marine Sanctuaries Act section 304(d), the Navy considered all proposed modifications to training and testing activities to determine whether they have the potential to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure sanctuary resources, or result in adverse impacts on sanctuary resources or qualities. Accordingly, the Navy and NMFS submitted a joint Sanctuary Resource Statement to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.</p> <p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety).</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in Forks have reported hearing 94 dBA flights under current EIS</li> <li>• There are other health problems that are caused or made worse by noise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise causes &amp; aggravates health problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High blood pressure (hypertension)</li> <li>• Heart disease (ischemic heart disease)</li> <li>• Increases or creates mental health problems</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other locations for this training are dismissed in 7 lines (out of 1,800 pages) as not offering the same proximity of ships and planes elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest (EIS Section 2, p. 2-21). But with millions of miles of coastline in the U.S., what about other parts of the country?</li> <li>• Growlers will be routed over Olympic National Park, Lake Crescent, Sequim and Port Townsend as they transit back and forth between their Whidbey Island base and the Olympic training areas over the Hoh Rainforest and Forks (map on p. 2-19) (19-20 times 2 = 38-40 passes over this area a day). The map also shows arrows of flight over the Olympic Mountains. The Navy has denied flying over Olympic National Park. This is untrue. Not only is this untrue, it is nearly impossible not to fly these missions over the Park.</li> <li>• "This Supplemental (EIS) does consider the cumulative impacts from these three projects as well as other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts)" [NAVY EIS p. 1-9]. This is an unacceptable statement because the EIS does not. The EIS assumes if there is no study, then none is needed. There is a list of activities that could be cumulative; the list is far from complete.</li> <li>• Information on off-shore activities are vague but asking for "incidental takes" of threatened and endangered mammals is very concerning.</li> <li>• Many of the wildlife impact statements end with "are not anticipated." This usually means the result is unknown because of a lack of experience or knowledge.</li> <li>• Noise effects on people: EIS research reference is "Miller, J. D. (1974), Effects of noise on people. The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 56(3), 729-764." [EIS p. 3.9-110] Unbelievable that there are not more recent studies on this subject.</li> <li>• If this EIS becomes operational, vacation trips to the Peninsula will no longer be a relaxing getaway.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
von der Lahr-1	<p>Stopp sonar! Because it's the right thing to do!</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Von vacano J-1	Please protect The Orcas! It is so important to do this! These are wonderful animals and we must Help them.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Vonlanthen-1	Please stop.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Vrooman-1	<p>I'm very concerned about the training and testing you have planned. After reading lots of information about the negative ecological and environmental impacts your training and testing will have I don't agree with you proceeding in the direction you have planned.</p> <p>I ask you to please include use of sonar in the prohibited activities in the 50-mile mitigation area. As you know sonar causes serious harm to the health of whales and other marine mammals and can lead to their death.</p>	<p>Training and testing with active sonar is essential to national security. The Navy uses active sonar during military readiness activities only when it is essential to training missions or testing program requirements since active sonar has the potential to alert opposing forces to the operating platform's presence. Passive sonar and other available sensors are used in concert with active sonar to the maximum extent practicable. The Navy will implement procedural mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals wherever and whenever activities occur in the Study Area. In addition to procedural mitigation, the Navy developed mitigation</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		areas to further avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals in important habitat areas. For example, the Navy will restrict certain activities or types of sonar year-round within 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, seasonally within the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area and Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area, and year-round in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area to help the Navy avoid potential impacts from active sonar on marine mammals in important foraging and migration areas. Additional mitigation for active sonar (e.g., prohibiting sonar within 50 NM from shore) would be impractical to implement for the reasons described in the Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) and Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar).
Vrooman-2	Your testing will have a cumulative effect of ocean acidification that should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives byproducts in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. This conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.	The Navy discusses ocean acidification in the context of climate change in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) and 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality) of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and includes information from scientific studies conducted since 2015. The Navy acknowledged in Section 3.1.3.3 (Climate Change and Sediments) that "metals tend to dissociate" in more acidic ocean conditions. The Navy added a reference back to these two sections in the sections analyzing the impacts of explosives (Section 3.1.4.1) and metals (Section 3.1.4.2). Note that corrosion can also act to insulate ordnance and other metal items from contact with seawater and sediments, slowing or even halting further corrosion and movement of metals into the adjacent sediments and water column. The effects of climate change on the ocean environment, particularly effects specific to a particular region like ocean waters in the Pacific Northwest, continue to be researched and to evolve and are not necessarily predictable. For example, as described in Section 3.1.3.6 (Climate Change and Marine Water Quality), increases in ocean acidity are believed to reduce the availability of carbonate in the water column, which is needed by organisms to generate calcium carbonate structures. However, increases in sea surface temperature associated with climate change appear to stimulate calcification at an even greater rate, essentially overriding the inhibiting effects of lower pH levels and leading to unexpected high abundance of cocolithophores (which build protective scales from calcium carbonate) in some ocean regions.
Vrooman-3	In the Draft SEIS you referenced the "best available science" - please expand this to take into account Tribal Traditional Knowledge. They have vast knowledge and years of experience along the coast. Please reconsider your training and testing plans.	The Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		As stated in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the term “traditional resources” is used to encompass protected tribal resources.
<b>W</b>		
Wachtin-1	<p>Hello, firstly thank you for giving a chance for feedback. I strongly oppose the U.S. navy sonar testing and training in the Salish sea. This would most definitely adversely affect so many Salish sea mammal residents not to mention the very at risk southern resident Orcas!! These endangered mammals rely desperately on hearing with communication (as they are extremely social with their families )and also their hunting for food. The last thing they need at this vulnerable time is one more obstacle in their fight for survival! This is 100% unacceptable</p> <p>“ For marine mammals that utilize sound extensively, limiting their ability to recognize these frequencies in sound is going to limit their survival, “Calambokidis said</p> <p>This is their home, we are suppose to be doing everything we can to ensure their survival, not jeopardize them further!!!</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Waddell-1	<p>I am against holding military trainings over and within sensitive and protected lands of Puget Sound and Salish Sea. This is not the location to be carrying on the proposed activities. There are many other options with fewer impacts on people, marine life, animals, parks that draw tourists and residents.</p> <p>Please re-consider the proposal to include other areas better suited to the proposed activities that have not been considered heretofore.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Navy has considered conducting training and testing in other locations; however, as stated in Section 2.4.1.1 (Alternate Training and Testing Locations), other locations fail to provide all the attributes necessary for effective training and testing.</p>
Wagner-1	<p>The Olympic Peninsula is a sanctuary and as such contains Olympic National Park. Navy flights and electronic testing are directly counter to the purpose for which this park was designated. The movie Plane Truths should be attached to this comment as support for this assertion.</p> <p>Sonar testing is counter to the preservation of our native Orca population, which the Governor has proposed a budget of \$1billion to protect. Endangered species will be impacted. This is not news to the Navy - and choosing to ignore these impacts is irresponsible and illegal.</p> <p>WA State citizens cherish the Olympic Peninsula, and I anticipate that the Navy will be facing legal action if this proposal is put into effect. Please consider the costs of a protracted legal battle as part of the consequences of proceeding.</p> <p>My Dad is a Navy WWII Veteran from Port Angeles, and considers this proposal by the Navy to be a betrayal of the Navy duty to preserve and protect.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA’s designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA’s designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Waitkevich-1	I am 100% against underwater sonar testing which is proven to harm sea life. There are 76 critically endangered orcas as well as other necessary sea life for the health and wellbeing of our environment. We all depend on good stewardship. This is so much more impressive than continued harm and disregard Do the right thing	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Walden-1	Underwater sonar has been proven to be very harmful and even fatal for some species of marine life. It has caused hundreds of whales and dolphins to be driven into shore where they die. This is an unacceptable practice, especially in whale breeding and calving areas.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Wales-1	I am appalled at the Navy's decision to increase the Growler Training force based at Whidbey Naval Air Station. With the vast number of sites available to use nation-wide, it strikes me as CRUEL and OBLIVIOUSLY SELFISH that the Navy would choose this site over so many other potential ones in less-populated or desirable locations. How can destroying property values, livelihoods, marine and wildlife protections and finally, showing a little RESPECT for others compromise it's mission? If factoring in such other variables somehow seems to compromise the mission, then perhaps the mission is the Problem!! There is simply dwindling shoreline and island places available on our coasts and the property values are proof of that. Thousands of people have spent their lives earning enough to afford such property. The increasing roar of those jets is already ruining what people have spent their lives trying to acquire. Frankly, if the Navy proceeds with this plan, I believe they should have to re-imburse those millions of dollars people have sacrificed to invest in their homes. Others can discuss all the other serious negative impacts on wildlife and marine ecosystems, but my question remains: What is the Navy prepared to do to compensate for or replace the dreams and fortunes of thousands	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.  The Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training farther from NAS Whidbey Island, either farther at sea or at other land training areas was considered and rejected. Additionally, the Olympic MOA is desirable for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure, environmental conditions that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness, and other factors stated in 2.5.1.1.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>of people? And how would that even work in this day when such properties are no longer available?</p> <p>In a word: the Navy's thinking is about 75 years out of date---wake up to what's currently our reality. And while you entertain this kind of thinking, you might also want to simply ask: HAVE YOU NO SHAME???</p> <p>The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. There is no evaluation for other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. Training around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas could be avoided if that was a priority for the Department of Defense.</p>	
Walker L-1	<p>I am writing to voice my opinion on the planned naval exercises off the Mendocino coast in Northern California. These exercises have been known to cause severe damage to whales, pinnipeds, seabirds, etc. Please reconsider, especially since it appears that these exercises may run right through the gray whale migration path? Our oceans are valuable to all creatures.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Walker S-1	<p>As a marine scientist and citizen, I am very concerned about sonar testing, as an experimental and destructive forceful underwater activity detrimental to many marine mammals, species and biological resources of Puget Sound and the Washington Coast. Many marine species are on the brink of extinction now. The expanded Navy practices will push them over quickly into extinction - forever. Sonar testing decimates the hearing, ability to hunt and eat, communication and health of many of the iconic marine species of Puget Sound. Many of these marine animals could be exposed to sonar multiple times. Tens of thousands of harbor porpoises live in inland Puget Sound waters. Dozens of other creatures in the Salish Sea would be affected in lesser numbers. The endangered southern resident killer whales are desperate for protection! for they are already on the brink of extinction. Because of sonar testing, the southern resident orcas will die and endangered humpback whales in waters off California, Oregon and Washington would suffer temporary hearing loss 277 times and alter their behavior 221 times.</p> <p>Please stop! and think about what you are doing to the planet and the people you claim to defend! Please reduce the number, extent, volume and frequency of sonar testing proposed, dramatically. Show how smart you are and completely avoid the need to test in critical habitat, sensitive areas</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	and marine sanctuaries. Reduce your sonar testing proposal to the bare minimum in critical habitats for endangered marine animals and be real protectors, set good examples as human beings tasked with caring for others.	
Walker S-2	<p>I am writing due to our grave concerns about the Navy plans for Northwest Training and Testing over the Olympic Peninsula. The Olympic Peninsula is home to tens of thousands of people, living, working, playing, visiting towns, cities, beaches, mountains and experiencing the National Park, a World Heritage Site, an International Biosphere Reserve with a coastal Marine Sanctuary. The Olympic Peninsula is home to farms and fisherman, loggers and families, forests and wildlife. It is home to National Wildlife Refuges and DNR camps and wilderness. It is home to food and music festivals, maritime trades and colleges. It is not a place suitable for warfare training! The Navy's plans for increased Growlers and warfare training is wholly incompatible with the people that live and depend on a healthy and peaceful way of life on the Olympic Peninsula. We have been here for decades; some centuries; building relationships and businesses, contributing to family and community. The Navy's plans for expanded warfare training over our home will devastate our families, our communities, our livelihoods, not to mention the forest sanctuaries and the wildlife. The economic effect of the Peninsula would be absolutely devastating!</p> <p>Your plan is also unacceptable due to the health risks to humans and animals that live in this region. The extremely loud Growler noise causes my blood pressure to rise, ruin our days off, drown out our family gatherings and keep us sleepless at night as they growl to late into the night overhead. It is like living in a war zone. The Growlers very loud and low noise profile impacts human health in a very negative manner causing problems to people's health and to the economy they depend upon for survival. Why would visitors or tourists want to come and visit here anymore if it becomes even more of a warfare training area? I can only imagine what the noise is doing to the sensitive species on the brink of extinction and to the first peoples, our Treaty Tribes that live on the Quinault, Quileute, Makah and Hoh Reservations. Your expansion plans are wholly unacceptable for they will destroy all of our ways of life. Finally, the Navy has demonstrated a complete lack of respect for the environment and the people it pretends to protect and support. The public meetings have been few and far between and the comment periods have been woefully inadequate. Please extend the comment period to a total of</p>	<p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. For this reason training complexes in Nevada are not reasonable. The training complex in Idaho is controlled by the Air Force and does not have the capacity for both Air Force and Navy operations. The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>The Navy's proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential health effects of Growler and other activities on humans are discussed in Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety).</p> <p>The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>90 days! This is very important since the people of the Olympic Peninsula have not been adequately informed or given time to understand and/or comment.!</p> <p>The only acceptable option to me and my family is the No Action Option Alternative. This Alternative may not meet the wishes of the Navy, but it is the only Alternative that allows us to continue to survive here. The Navy needs to consider other options for its training and demonstrate their desire to protect us, not harm us. The Navy needs to return to train in areas like Idaho and Nevada like they have been for decades. These areas were designed for warfare training. The Olympic Peninsula is NOT a warfare training area!</p>	
Walker S-3	<p>The Navy is conducting sonar (active sound navigation and ranging) and setting off underwater explosives in the Olympic Marine Sanctuary, Straits of Juan de Fuca and areas of Puget Sound. What is there to mitigate once you have damaged and decimated marine species which depend on sonar to find food and quiet waters in which to navigate and survive? These loud and damaging underwater training and testing measures directly and very negatively impact multiple marine species, including endangered salmon and orca. What type of marine species mitigation measures are effective when all of these species are currently being decimated to extinction?</p> <p>Please stop testing explosives underwater and eliminate or minimize your sonar testing within inland and protected waters, such as Puget Sound, the Straits of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Marine Sanctuary where salmon, orcas and other marine species feed to survive. It is a tiny consideration and very small favor to ask you to move your testing into deeper, outer waters beyond the Olympic Marine Sanctuary to protect an entire marine ecosystem. Is it any wonder our salmon and orcas are starving and dying in the Pacific Northwest? The Navy's continued practices in the name of sonar and explosives training should be fully revealed to the public as being the primary reason we have decimating loss of marine species to the brink of extinction in these same waters of the Pacific Northwest.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Wall-1	<p>Feeling good about the "Visualization" and "Accuracy" associated with the Navy Acoustic Effects Model is a mistake. The model's "correctness" depends upon having predictable marine mammal location/behavior data as input to the modeling process. Ongoing data collection on marine species, especially in this time of our changing oceans would indicate that migration patterns and feeding patterns are in a time of uncertainty relative to preceding years. In addition, the Navy's real-time mitigation plan</p>	<p>Please see the 2018 technical report titled Quantifying Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles: Methods and Analytical Approach for Phase III Training and Testing (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2017) for details on how the Navy accounted for the differences in captive and wild animals in the development of the BRFs.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	is far too dependent on the on-deck, binocularized marine mammal spotter. The area chosen for acoustic and weapons testing is a known migration path, feeding ground nesting place and home for many sea creatures and birds. While it is relatively easy to measure and model variables such as current, sea bottom type, sea water density, temperature. However, it is not easy to predict or to discern the presence of marine life in a certain area. And it is also essentially impossible to identify and catalogue the damage done to our sea creatures and their food chain by this testing. Why choose such an area to conduct live testing? And why would the National Marine Fisheries Services approve it?	The Navy uses the best available science in the analysis which has been reviewed by external scientists and approved by NMFS. The Navy has utilized all available data for the development of updated criteria and threshold, as well as presence and behavior of marine mammals.
Wallace-1	Sonar testing has been proven time and time again to severely injure these living beings. You know that is caused them to feel pain and to suffer, often leading to death. And yet you STILL want to use sonar? I can't help but feel sorry for you. What is wrong with your mindset that you feel it's okay to do this kind of harm? I, as an American Citizen, in the land of the oppressors and home of the terrorized, urge you to stand against harmful testing such as sonar.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Wallis-1	Just some common sense and Care, for these Amazing Mammals,, Wake up, do we have to Lose these,,sea animals to wake up! 😊	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Wallner-1	We live in a society where we are so driven to see what can be achieved that we continuously fail to assess whether or not we should. Why is it that we are ok to destroy wild life and the planet? Our progress is at best moving us towards our own annihilation. Please don't do something which once again harms an endangered species. We need to do better for our kids and not the pocketbooks.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Walsh A-1	Totally against any underwater noise that negatively affects the lives of marine mammals.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Walsh K-1	During the past five months over 30 gray whale carcasses have been spotted along the West Coast. This is the largest die off in 19 years. Starvation is the primary cause according to the results of several necropsies that were conducted. Clearly the marine food chain is not functioning well at this point in time and the results may be far reaching to numerous other marine organisms. I am strongly recommending that the Navy cease and desist from the training activities described in the draft supplemental EIS/OEIS until there is evidence of a recovery of the marine food chain. Of Particular concerns are the activities that involve hydro-acoustical impacts and explosives. Valuable training activities can be conducted without the monetary and environmental cost that deployment of these devices entail. When the ocean dies, we die. Now is the time to	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	seek solutions to what we are witnessing occurring on the Pacific Coast; we cannot afford to continue to impact the marine environment with the training exercises that are described in the EIS/OEIS.	Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. As described in Section 5.2.1 (Procedural Mitigation Development), the Navy's analysis assumes that due to limitations such as those mentioned in the comment, Lookouts will not be 100% effective at detecting all individual marine mammals.
Walsh P-1	Must stop sonar testing in the endangered pnw orca habitat.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Waltz-1	<p>I am against the decision to allow the United States Navy to conduct sonar tests and exercises in the Salish Sea, off the Washington Coast. Numerous scientific studies have been conducted on the harmful and damaging impacts of sonar testing on marine life. The US Navy has already been taken to federal court and been told to limit long-rang sonar testing for the sake of marine mammals (<a href="https://www.nrdc.org/media/2016/160718">https://www.nrdc.org/media/2016/160718</a>) s following an incident in 2000, where sonar exercises in the Bahamas were direct cause of death for 17 beaked whales. Their hearing was severely damaged and were so disoriented, they became stranded. (<a href="https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2002/01/navy-admits-sonar-killed-whales">https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2002/01/navy-admits-sonar-killed-whales</a>)</p> <p>The Salish Sea is also pivotal habitat for the local orca population, the Southern Residents, who are federally designated as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>Video shot in 2001 by Ken Balcomb, founder of Center for Whale Research, of a Navy ship conducting exercises in the sea showed distressed Southern Resident orcas fleeing from the source of sound.</p> <p>On top of that, having these exercises scaring off the local wildlife will potentially cause damage to the local economies (San Juan Island, Victoria [CAN]) and communities that rely on ecotourism. Visitors from all over the</p>	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>US and the world come to the Salish Sea to not only visit the orcas, but to see the unique ecosystem.</p> <p>War games are not an excuse to wreck local communities and local fauna.</p>	
Wanagel-1	<p>Why is there no Alternative for Quiet?</p> <p>I am an extremely avid backpacker in the Olympic National Park. More than that, I am a volunteer Chief Crew Leader for Washington Trails Association. I lead crews all over the Olympics, mostly in the Olympic National Park, to clear, repair and maintain trails. With all that time in the mountains that should be peaceful and quiet, after all, the Olympics are (were) considered one of the quietest places in the lower 48, one would think I am experiencing nothing but peace and joy while in the mountains. Unfortunately, the noise from the Growlers are inducing stress to an unhealthy level. Recently while attending a Navy open house in Port Angeles, I was shown a monitoring report from 2010 (nothing more recent than that?). The gentleman showing me that report had never been in the Olympic National Park. He did not know where those monitoring stations were. But I know. They were all at sea level or nearly so. Absolutely no monitoring has been done at higher elevations where backpackers and trail workers spend most of their time.</p> <p>I can tell you what it sounds like up there: absolutely awful. The noise is rattling and massively stress-inducing.</p> <p>Here is how loud it is: I am a deaf person who functions with cochlear implants. My cochlear implants put me back in the hearing world, allowing me to do my paid job as well as volunteer to lead those crews on trails all over the Olympics. They allow me to function. The cochlear implant processors have an automated compression when noise gets too loud. Obviously someone who has cochlear implants does not have natural hearing to protect, but the compression serves the purpose of making the noise more comfortable. It takes an extremely loud sound to make the processors go into compression mode. A sound that will set off the compression, for example, is a chain saw at close proximity. Your Growlers, many frustrating times per day, make my processors go into compression mode. That is loud! You know what happens then? I cannot communicate with the other volunteers in my crew. We will be working on a project or sawing out a large tree, where safety is critical, but I cannot hear what they are saying. The compression mode clamps down on the loudness of the Growlers, but makes it so I cannot function until the noise abates and my processors go back to normal mode. Even in compression mode, I can still hear them (and they are still loud), but the sound quality of the processors</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy considered noise impacts at higher elevations in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The analysis of impacts on wildlife is covered in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>goes all weird and it's disconcerting, to say the least. I can no longer judge the loudness of my voice and I cannot tell how much I need to project my voice so my crew members can hear me over the jets. Mostly we just stop what we're doing until the Growler noise has passed, which is never fast. Many times per day. It is aggravating beyond belief.</p> <p>Then there is the despair I feel as someone who loves the Olympics more than the air we breathe. They should be the quietest place in the Lower 48. It's a unique and diverse National Park with unparalleled beauty and ruggedness. You say your lowest elevation for flying is 6000 feet. What about us who spend many dozens of days per year anywhere from 3,000-7,000 feet? Can you imagine the noise? No, you cannot, because you don't go out there in that pristine wilderness to listen for yourself. It's brutal. It's aggravating. It's stressful and it makes me deeply sad.</p> <p>And what about the wildlife? If your noise is that troublesome for humans, what of the wildlife who depend on hearing each other to survive and thrive? Have you no concern for them? That contributes to my sadness.</p> <p>As someone who uses cochlear implants to hear, I do not like the noisy nature of humans. All human noises to me, without exception, are not pleasant. I cannot understand music. It is distorted, flatline and quite ugly, yet it's ubiquitous. Cars, dishes, background noise ... it's an ever-present onslaught of noise. Humans are a loud species. So I escape to the mountains as often as I can. It's a place that brings me joy and QUIET so that I can be at true peace. You have ruined that. There is nowhere left that is truly quiet. The Olympics should be one of the last remaining places.</p> <p>After all, it is a National Park, a uniquely special one at that, and it is way out on the edge of the country. Why can't it be left quiet? The quiet was one of the most endearing things about this Park. Can't you take that awful noise elsewhere?</p> <p>Arm me with noise monitors. I am in the mountains enough that I can collect a lot of data. You don't really know what's going on out there because you haven't been there to hear it.</p>	
Wanionek-1	<p>Please stop sonar testing! It harms marine life by disrupting their communication and feeding.</p> <p>At closer ranges, the marine mammals can become deaf and disoriented, which can affect their migration, leading them to become stranded. It's painful for them, physically and psychologically.</p> <p>On a larger scale, this effects biodiversity and the health of our planet. Humans also need biodiversity to survive as a species.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Thank you for taking the time to read these public comments and for your consideration regarding this matter!	EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ware-1	Please do not compromise my much needed quiet time on the Olympic Peninsula. We need our undisturbed nature time to rejuvenate.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Warnke-1	Hey there  As a bc resident it is really important to me to preserve our habitat and the animals in it. Your sonar testing is severely effecting our marine life, please stop doing it!!!!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Warren-1	The use of sonar testing is incredibly destructive and has a severe effect on the already threatened cetacean populations. The majority of whale and dolphin species hunt through ecolocation, exposure to military sonar can damage their inner ear causing deafness making it difficult for them to feed, leading to starvation. Sonar is also incredibly distressing and disorientating and has led to cases of mass strandings caused by nitrogen poisoning.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Warrick-1	Practice navel maneuvers in a location that doesn't harm whales.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Waters-1	I am Very concerned about the Damage to Marine life and it's effects on coastal communities that DEPEND on the ocean for a major part of the Revenues that keep these communities afloat. We have Commercial Fishing industry, Sportfish industry which ALSO encompasses Whale watching,	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	abalone diving, kayaking, which intern effects the Hotels, Restaurants and Campgrounds that these visitors contribute to. What about the Tribal Nations that DEPEND on the ocean for their existance? With the damage your testing will cause, HOW do you propose a COMPENSATION package to the LOSSES these communities will endure?	<p>to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.</p>
Waters-2	I strongly oppose any war games off our coast, or anywhere for that matter! You only pollute, and kill our environment and innocent lives animal & human.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Watkins-1	How will the Navy guarantee that ALL forms of marine life will be not harmed by the Navy's Northwest Training and Testing? "Right now scientists are calling it a Wildlife Emergency! This includes our oceans, and right here at home on our West Coast. This is a big issue for our coastal community — including tourism and fishermen's livelihood. Many species living here have already been compromised by warming seas and overfishing—not to mention the record numbers of curious deaths of whales and recently of the common murre found dead on our beaches. I do not see how your operations will do anything but add to the already fragile situation in our ocean and in our coastal community. Please respond to my question.	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Watson M-1	Please cease all testing where cetaceans can be sensitive to sounds and driven off or injured.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Watson Y-1	We need to ensure we don't infringe any further on this animals habitat. We are slowly killing this planet and it's animals it has to stop soon. Do your tests in an area they don't frequent.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Wax-1	Please halt sonar tests. Sea life depends on clear access to sounds that are relevant to them. Constant loud sounds disorient them. Have some compassion, please for fellow beings on this planet. Grey whales are dying in California! What will happen in breeding season, for instance. I beg you, please stop the tests.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Weakland-1	Goal and benefits of exercise? What are the regulations, rules, laws that exempt the Navy from harming wildlife? What guarantees, certainties,	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	absolutes that assure no wildlife are killed or injured? The necessity that no alternatives exist? Will you be honest and truthful in the negatives or outcome of maneuvers? How does this make us safer? Please explain why compensation to fisheries?	Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Wearn-1	Would any Navy official have the courage to man up and expose their ears to the intense sound testing they are doing in the oceans? The Navy is killing sea animals with these deafening sound tests. It must stop!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Weaver-1	Sonar testing is a significant way to speed up extinction for animals that use sonar communication to survive. So many ocean species are already endangered. Why harm the oceans ecosystem and terminate an entire species for military use? Please, don't continue sonar testing underwater. Our earth as a whole is already at stake.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Webb A-1	The people who live here do not want this under any circumstance.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Webb C-1	Please don't do any testing in the Salish sea	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Webb J-1	Please stop. Your harming our oceans and marine life's.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Weberg-1	Please do not harass these orcas, they are already fighting a losing battle with the decline of their food source....it is cruel and unnecessary to do your testing so close to this threatened species.	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Weerasingam -1	To Whom It May Concern: The practice of sonar testing is extremely harmful to beings that call the ocean their home. After years of conducting research, results indicate negative harmful effects to them. This practice leaves such beings with high levels of distress and some with loss of hearing. It is unacceptable and needs to be stopped immediately. Thank you for your time and consideration.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Weibel-1	I believe I commented on your NOP, the Scoping Session and now again. I am very concerned about your proposed increase of your war games in the North Pacific in the path of the Gray Whales' annual migration. Only the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE, to deny the U.S. Navy permission to conduct warfare training and testing activities off the Northwest Coast of the US, is acceptable. Why did you call for final comments in 2017 before you asked for comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS? You apparently evaluated new relevant info, recent marine mammal density data & scientific info. After all, it was not final as some might believe. I attended your "promo" gathering run by MANTECH's staff in Fort Bragg. Against the request & wishes of the Mendocino & Lake Tribes that have since 2005 opposed Navy training and testing in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) range and local people, you gave us no opportunity to hear each other's questions and your representatives' answers, and learn from each other. <a href="https://www.mantech.com/about/mission-vision-and-values">https://www.mantech.com/about/mission-vision-and-values</a> In an effort to justify your war games you have funded scientific institutions and public relations firms to the tune of tens of millions of dollars per year. You buy off many oceanographic schools, research facilities, etc. to do "research" for you - exactly so you can present science fair/social	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>engineering/dog-and-pony shows like we experienced in Fort Bragg. The culture of oceanographic schools/research grants/industry/government/military is a tight one. This process is a fraud and is not legal under the Supplemental Environm. Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS).</p> <p>You are not truly describing the impacts on the environment as a result of a proposed action. Until we end the madness of nuclear sabre rattling, and by extension submarine warfare, through international diplomacy and mutually enforced treaties, no one and nothing on this planet is safe. You could play a primary role in enforcing an international treaty to ban submarine warfare, and by extension, nuclear weapons. You could also take an active role in combating climate change, to eliminate the vessel's footprint (not reduce) and do something about the large quantities of plastic that are choking the life from our oceans. If humanity is going to survive, much less the marine species that are the inevitable "collateral damage" of mankind's never-ending quest for military superiority it is time to change course 180 degrees. We need international cooperation instead of antagonism.</p> <p>We might find the answers to some of our questions if we read 1,700 pages, but your brochure and presentation were a joke. There is no way to mitigate all the issues that you will read about in all the comments unless you choose a NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE.</p> <p>You have been conducting training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades. That does not mean it is safe. The word testing sounds harmless, but you do not describe clearly what you do when you test. You indicate that you use the most current and best available science and analytical methods. If you would do that, you would not use this area for testing. You describe that you are stewards, that you protect people, their heritage, the human &amp; natural environment for future generations. Why is it that a teacher on one of your ships observed garbage being thrown overboard? You indicate that it is likely that marine mammal populations might only have short term consequences from your war games when we face a massive loss of whales, other animals and plants.</p> <p>I am a mother, teacher, landowner and tax payer and have lived on the Mendocino Coast for 40 years I hope that my grandchildren will be able to see these "giants of the sea" and other species as well. Please protect them! Peace, not war.</p>	
Weibel-2	I live in Northern California off the Mendocino Coast and get to see Gray Whales, Humpback Whales, Orcas and dolphins. Underwater sonar is	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>detrimental to the health and livelihood of whales. Whales and dolphins rely on communicating with their pod and others. Due to the way water absorbs light (hindering the ability to see accurately) and limits smell, whales have to rely largely on sound to navigate the ocean, especially in areas where there is no light. While water may limit some of their primary senses, sound is actually enhanced in the ocean. The reason for this is that sound travels four times faster in the water than it does on land making it extremely important to the whale species in terms of survival. Whales and dolphins rely on echolocation and can therefore get an early warning sign of predators in the area and are better able to travel safely and locate potential food sources. Because of the ever increasing use of ambient sounds some researchers and scientists are concerned that these sounds being created by people may hinder the whales ability to communicate and echo-locate which is extremely important for their survival. Sonar transmitters confuses these animals and interferes with basic biological functions such as feeding and mating.</p> <p>Increased whale beachings are believed to be one of many results caused by ambient sounds. Often whales try to move rapidly away from the source of the sonar, a response that disrupts their feeding and can cause mass strandings. Environmental groups claimed that some of the beached whales were bleeding from the eyes and ears, which they considered an indication of acoustically-induced trauma.</p> <p>We can not allow this to happen to them.</p> <p>Studies have shown whales experience decompression sickness, a disease that forces nitrogen into gas bubbles in the tissues and is caused by rapid and prolonged surfacing. Although whales were originally thought to be immune to this disease, sonar has been implicated in causing behavioral changes that can lead to decompression sickness.</p> <p>Other issues that may arise from the increase in artificial sounds include brain hemorrhaging from loud noises and loss of direction as these sounds may interfere with echolocation and hinder their communication with other pod members.</p> <p>Whales are extremely intelligent species and it is believed that their communication is one of the most sophisticated forms of communication among all animal species.</p> <p>A 2005 lawsuit filed by the National Resources Defense Council in Santa Monica, California contended that the U.S. Navy has conducted sonar exercises in violation of several environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the</p>	<p>and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Endangered Species Act. Sonar has been in use by the world's Navies, and has been widely deployed since the 1960s. The Navy must follow environmental laws placing strict limits on sonar.	
Weibel-3	Navies need to follow these mitigation requirements: Not operating at nighttime or at specific areas of the ocean that are considered sensitive; slow ramp-up of intensity of signal to give whales a warning; air cover to search for mammals; not operating when a mammal is known to be within a certain range; on board observers from civilian groups; using fish-finders to look for whales in the vicinity; large margins of safety for exposure levels; not operating when dolphins are bow-riding; operations at less than full power; paid teams of veterans to investigate strandings after sonar operation; no helicopter use or other aircraft above the waterways; consider geographic mitigations; no use of explosives; follow the National Environmental Policy Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Some whales might be able to avoid Navy sonar from ships, but not from helicopters. The Navy sonar is so loud around the San Juan Islands that it can drown out the calls of the Orcas on the hydrophones put in place to monitor them. <a href="http://blog.seattlepi.com/candacewhiting/2017/08/30/these-whales-can-avoid-navy-sonar-from-ships-but-not-from-helicopters-public-opinion-sought-on-naval-exercises/">http://blog.seattlepi.com/candacewhiting/2017/08/30/these-whales-can-avoid-navy-sonar-from-ships-but-not-from-helicopters-public-opinion-sought-on-naval-exercises/</a> I am a mother, teacher, landowner and tax payer and have lived on the Mendocino Coast for 40 years I hope that my grandchildren will be able to see these "giants of the sea" and other species as well. Please protect them! Peace, not war. Thanks	The Navy considered the mitigation measures suggested in the comment. Please see Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) regarding nighttime training and testing requirements, slow ramp-up of sonar, and operations at less than full power. The Navy does use aircraft for Lookout duties when aircraft are available. When marine mammals are known to be within a certain range, the Navy applies procedural mitigation, which includes powering down sonar or ceasing the activity, which provides large margins of safety for exposure levels. Please see Section 5.5.5 (Third-Party Observers) for a discussion of on board observers from civilian groups. Please see Section 5.5.3 (Active and Passive Acoustic Monitoring Devices) for a discussion of using fish-finders to look for whales. Active sonar transmission is authorized when dolphins are bow riding because they are out of the main transmission axis of the active sonar while in the shallow-wave area of the ship bow. NMFS is responsible for investigating strandings and other unusual mortality events, so any discussion about how those investigations are conducted would be best directed to NMFS. The use of explosives and aircraft are integral to the Navy completing required training and testing and meet its Purpose and Need (see Chapter 1), so eliminating their use was not considered.  Regarding avoiding specific areas of the ocean (i.e., geographic mitigations), please see Appendix K (Geographic Mitigation Assessment) for a description of the new mitigation areas the Navy is implementing.  The Navy continues to conduct its proposed activities in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Endangered Species act.
Weibel-4	GRAY WHALES The SEIS cites a study done in 2008 and 2010 to claim that there are between 17,000 and 20,000 gray whales on the West Coast. Will the SEIS update information and impacts etc. on the current population of Gray whales? See attached SEIS references in the SEIS are dated from 1984-2014 Will the SEIS address the 70+ whale deaths on the West Coast so far this year, that represent only 10% of the actual loss and take in to account that the Stressors outlined in the SEIS will exacerbated this situation? How will the SEIS address the Wildlife Emergency just announced by NOAA? <a href="https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-">https://www.paradisepost.com/2019/05/31/feds-declare-emergency-as-</a>	The Navy uses the most current marine mammal population data available from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The 2008 and 2010 references cited in the comment were not used by the Navy to determine current populations.  The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>gray-whale-deaths-reach-highest-level-in-nearly-20-years/  <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/grey-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a>  A recent study published in January 2019 documents the severe effect sonar has on whales.  <a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a>  Scientific studies have shown, without a doubt, that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, ‘listening’ is as important as ‘seeing’ is for humans, as they live in a world of water and sound. Noise pollution threatens whale and dolphin populations, interrupting their normal behavior, driving them away from areas important to their survival and at worst injuring or sometimes even causing the deaths of some whales and dolphins.  3.4-107 of the SEIS states that Gray whales in Baja abandoned an historical breeding ground due to an increase in noise and shipping activity. Until NOAA’s study of the die off on the Gray Whales is complete shouldn’t any disruption of the Ocean by Sonar and Explosive activity should be halted? The SEIS at 3.4-135 acknowledges that Gray whales are slow moving and sometimes exhibit “snorkeling activity,” they surface quietly and exhale without of any visible blow.  The Navy claims they have lookouts watching for whales before they use sonar and explosives and are “very unlikely” to have their feeding and migration impacted by the Navy’s activities.  How does the SEIS take into account this “snorkeling” and fog and rough seas in watching for whales? The SEIS details the presence of gray whales in six of the NWTT areas for short periods and claims that the gray whales have “low risk” of being impacted. How much risk is acceptable given NOAA’s Wildlife Emergency? The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that “military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor”. At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that “for the most part,” this material will be incidentally ingested by bottom feeders. Gray Whales are bottom feeders. Given the already stressed gray whale population should the SEIS take this into account?  <a href="https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/">https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160331-car-parts-plastics-dead-whales-germany-animals/</a>  <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/03/whale-dies-88-pounds-plastic-philippines/</a>  <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/dead-pregnant-whale-plastic-italy/</a>  <a href="https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Two-dead-gray-whales-">https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Two-dead-gray-whales-</a></p>	<p>examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. As described in Section 5.2.1 (Procedural Mitigation Development), the Navy’s analysis assumes that due to limitations such as those mentioned in the comment, Lookouts will not be 100% effective at detecting all individual marine mammals.</p> <p>The analysis of the potential impacts related to the other issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Climate change is addressed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS in Section 3.2.3.2 (Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change).</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>found-in-San-Francisco-Bay-13690102.php  <a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-6954333/SEVEN-grey-whales-wash-dead-San-Francisco-beaches-just-month.html?utm_source=fb&amp;utm_medium=post&amp;utm_campaign=Whales&amp;fbclid=IwAR3SRQVpBiuVILXYfTxcEEuT-oVYv_NqchZhVUwaeugAY6AgUc-4Q62B4">https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-6954333/SEVEN-grey-whales-wash-dead-San-Francisco-beaches-just-month.html?utm_source=fb&amp;utm_medium=post&amp;utm_campaign=Whales&amp;fbclid=IwAR3SRQVpBiuVILXYfTxcEEuT-oVYv_NqchZhVUwaeugAY6AgUc-4Q62B4</a>            It is common knowledge and accepted science that military sonar causes mass strandings of marine mammals. These creatures have no defense against the lethal and debilitating effects from major underwater blasts of active sonar and explosives, and no amount of corrupt, paid-off “scientific data” will alter this fact. In 2015, the Navy asserted in its EIS that their activities will have zero mortality effects on marine mammals. The current EIS reasserts these claims, with minor changes.            In addition human-caused climate change is a direct driver that is exacerbating the effects of over fishing, widespread pesticide use and urban expansion. We don’t need any more assaults!  <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/05/06/one-million-species-face-extinction-un-panel-says-humans-will-suffer-result/?tid=ss_mail&amp;utm_term=.3a7490738f43">https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/05/06/one-million-species-face-extinction-un-panel-says-humans-will-suffer-result/?tid=ss_mail&amp;utm_term=.3a7490738f43</a>            With the drastic effects of radiation poisoning from Fukushima we do not need any additional toxins. Remember, we have up welling. Toxins do not just dis sapper and mix on the bottom, they end up on our dinner plate.            Damage can not be undone!  <a href="http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/28-signs-west-coast-being-absolutely-fried-nuclear-radiation-fukushima">http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/28-signs-west-coast-being-absolutely-fried-nuclear-radiation-fukushima</a>            I am a mother, teacher, landowner and tax payer and have lived on the Mendocino Coast for 40 years I hope that my grandchildren will be able to see these “giants of the sea” and other species as well. Please protect them! Peace, not war.</p>	
Weir-1	<p>We are at a critical point in climate change and ecosystem/biodiversity collapse and we cannot afford to release ANY more toxic compounds or additional harmful acoustics into our environment! Making smart long-term decisions for the sake of a livable planet is the most important thing we can do right now. Please do not to release ANY heavy metals, depleted uranium, toxic chemicals, or harmful acoustics into the Puget Sound (or any oceans) or its surrounding environment.</p>	<p>Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.</p> <p>Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Weiss-1	I am concerned about impacts on migrating whales off our Pacific Coasts. They migrate twice a year to and from their calving grounds, with young and sensitive animals. I would like to see restrictions on timing that would avoid the migration seasons, or on location, to avoid the corridors the animals typically use. The data discussed for example in 3.4-106-7 indicate that the impacts aren't well understood. Instead of avoiding potential impacts in the absence of clear data, you are assuming that ambiguous data is a license to proceed. I reject this assumption and support a more precautious approach. These are sensitive at risk populations protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. I encourage you to revise your plans to avoid adverse impacts on these animals.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Weisz-1	I am opposed to the use of MF SONAR in the Whidbey Island Training Areas adjacent to Whidbey Island in any capacity.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Welch-1	I am opposed to the Navy Sonar testing. It will harm the already endangered orcas and other pinniped, dolphin and whale species that live in the area.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Weller A-1	Sonar testing in the Salish would be detrimental to the ecosystem, which in turn is detrimental to the citizens that depend on those waters- for income, for beauty, and for recreation. We visit Washington annually, and the Salish has been a big part of our visits.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Weller C-1	<p>Subject: Comments on NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS</p> <p>Our community is a quiet rural residential neighborhood along Dungeness Bay near the Dungeness Spit in Clallam County. When the Growler jets came to NASWI, they became the loudest, most intrusive recurring noises by far. These occur primarily from jets westbound from NASWI, but occasionally eastbound to NASWI, as they transit to and from operating areas on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula. Based upon the EIS Map Figure 2.3-1, "Aircraft Transit to and from Olympic Military Operations Areas", and discussions with Navy personnel at the Open House in Port Angeles on 4/26/2019, the Growler jet noise problem occurs as the jets follow a route to the navigation point MCCUL, about 5 nautical miles east of north from us, and then follow a route to the Olympic operating areas that passes about 3 nautical miles west of north from us. The overwhelming majority of loud aircraft noise events we are subjected to are the Growler jets.</p> <p>The EIS relies on "aircraft noise modeling" in which assumed airplane and operating information are used in a computer model. Using time averaging and logarithmic compression, seemingly innocuous numbers result. Modeling results of this sort are often offered to neighborhoods near airports in noisy urban areas.</p> <p>However, the communities affected by NASWI jets are generally low-noise rural areas. That this noise modeling is clearly not adequate is demonstrated by a sentence in Paragraph 1 of page 3.12.29, "The</p>	<p>DoD's position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD's position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p> <p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>disturbance from a single aircraft transiting over land or nearshore areas to conduct a training or testing activity in the offshore area would be brief (seconds)...” Seconds?! No! The noise disturbance here typically goes on for one to three MINUTES! Noise modeling is seriously underestimating the jet noise impact!</p> <p>But there is no need to rely on “modeling”. The NASWI jet noise and normal background levels in our communities can be reliably recorded by on-site noise monitoring equipment. Acoustic noise monitoring by the National Park Service at its Hoh River Trail site (Paragraph 4 of page 3.12.29) found the startling result that aircraft were audible 12% of the time! Monitoring would both clearly display the extent of the problem and point to methods of reduction.</p> <p>Although there is no mitigation of jet noise discussed in the EIS, there is a great opportunity here for taking some positive mitigating steps. And on-site monitoring could provide the data to identify methods and test them. These could include route adjustments and changes to jet aircraft operation such as power.</p> <p>At the Navy Open House in Port Angeles on 4/26/2019, I had the opportunity to both learn and to discuss possible mitigation with the NASWI Commanding Officer, Captain Army, and other officers. He encouraged me to submit these as comments and said that they could look into mitigation possibilities.</p> <p>(These comments were sent to you by US Mail in my letter of May 10, 2019. I have not received any acknowledgement of receipt from you, and perhaps none are being sent. So I am sending my comments to you via this electronic form also.)</p>	<p>environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p>The Navy considered but did not develop mitigation for aircraft overflights, such as shifting transit routes, relocating aircrew training activities, or modifying flight altitudes, because such mitigation would not be practical to implement due to implications for safety and mission requirements. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controls the National Airspace System and routes that overlap the NWTT Study Area. The FAA designed the routes to efficiently manage air traffic in the region and to safely deconflict military traffic from commercial and general aviation aircraft, with consideration given to the presence of Canadian National Airspace and traffic to the north. The FAA is the responsible federal agency for determining transit routes and any changes to such routes must be approved by the FAA. The Navy is currently in discussions with the FAA exploring the possibility of shifting the FAA-established transit routes for military aircraft transiting to and from the Olympic MOA from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to the north of the Olympic Peninsula. The purpose of these discussions is to consider the efficient and safe use of navigable airspace. While ultimately any shift in transit routes is the FAA’s decision, it is possible that, if approved, such a shift will have the added benefit of reducing military aircraft noise over the Olympic National Park.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Weller C-2	<p>Subject: Comments on NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS</p> <p>Our community is a quiet rural residential neighborhood along Dungeness Bay near the Dungeness Spit in Clallam County. When the Growler jets came to NASWI, they became the loudest, most intrusive recurring noises by far. These occur primarily from jets westbound from NASWI, but occasionally eastbound to NASWI, as they transit to and from operating areas on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula. Based upon the EIS Map Figure 2.3-1, “Aircraft Transit to and from Olympic Military Operations Areas”, and discussions with Navy personnel at the Open House in Port Angeles on 4/26/2019, the Growler jet noise problem occurs as the jets follow a route to the navigation point MCCUL, about 5 nautical miles east of north from us, and then follow a route to the Olympic operating areas that passes about 3 nautical miles west of north from us. The</p>	<p>DoD’s position is to utilize modeling over monitoring for activities in a MOA. Additionally, the noise model used, MR_NMap is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses<sup>1</sup>. The following text<sup>2</sup> states DoD’s position regarding the preference for modeling:</p> <p>5.2. Noise Model Use. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels near an installation in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions. Noise modeling allows accurate prediction of noise levels through careful collection of data on noise source operations, robust and accurate databases of noise-source sound levels, and validated acoustic propagation prediction methods.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>overwhelming majority of loud aircraft noise events we are subjected to are the Growler jets.</p> <p>The EIS relies on “aircraft noise modeling” in which assumed airplane and operating information are used in a computer model. Using time averaging and logarithmic compression, seemingly innocuous numbers result. Modeling results of this sort are often offered to neighborhoods near airports in noisy urban areas.</p> <p>However, the communities affected by NASWI jets are generally low-noise rural areas. That this noise modeling is clearly not adequate is demonstrated by a sentence in Paragraph 1 of page 3.12.29, “The disturbance from a single aircraft transiting over land or nearshore areas to conduct a training or testing activity in the offshore area would be brief (seconds)...” Seconds?! No! The noise disturbance here typically goes on for one to three MINUTES! Noise modeling is seriously underestimating the jet noise impact!</p> <p>But there is no need to rely on “modeling”. The NASWI jet noise and normal background levels in our communities can be reliably recorded by on-site noise monitoring equipment. Acoustic noise monitoring by the National Park Service at its Hoh River Trail site (Paragraph 4 of page 3.12.29) found the startling result that aircraft were audible 12% of the time! Monitoring would both clearly display the extent of the problem and point to methods of reduction.</p> <p>Although there is no mitigation of jet noise discussed in the EIS, there is a great opportunity here for taking some positive mitigating steps. And on-site monitoring could provide the data to identify methods and test them. These could include route adjustments and changes to jet aircraft operation such as power.</p> <p>At the Navy Open House in Port Angeles on 4/26/2019, I had the opportunity to both learn and to discuss possible mitigation with the NASWI Commanding Officer, Captain Army, and other officers. He encouraged me to submit these as comments and said that they could look into mitigation possibilities.</p> <p>(These comments were sent to you by US Mail in my letter of May 10, 2019. I have not received any acknowledgement of receipt from you, and perhaps none are being sent. So I am sending my comments to you via this electronic form also.)</p>	<p>In addition, the Air Force Handbook also states the following overview of noise monitoring for noise assessment:</p> <p>6.1.1. [C]omputer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations because the Services collect source data under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and, if a moving source, speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographical areas.</p> <p>The Navy considered but did not develop mitigation for aircraft overflights, such as shifting transit routes, relocating aircrew training activities, or modifying flight altitudes, because such mitigation would not be practical to implement due to implications for safety and mission requirements. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controls the National Airspace System and routes that overlap the NWT Study Area. The FAA designed the routes to efficiently manage air traffic in the region and to safely deconflict military traffic from commercial and general aviation aircraft, with consideration given to the presence of Canadian National Airspace and traffic to the north. The FAA is the responsible federal agency for determining transit routes and any changes to such routes must be approved by the FAA. The Navy is currently in discussions with the FAA exploring the possibility of shifting the FAA-established transit routes for military aircraft transiting to and from the Olympic MOA from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to the north of the Olympic Peninsula. The purpose of these discussions is to consider the efficient and safe use of navigable airspace. While ultimately any shift in transit routes is the FAA’s decision, it is possible that, if approved, such a shift will have the added benefit of reducing military aircraft noise over the Olympic National Park.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> FAA 1050.1F Desk Reference, Section 11. Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use, July 2015.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Air Force Handbook 32-7067, Planning in the Noise Environment – DRAFT, June 2019.</p>
Wellings-1	<p>Dear fail army,</p> <p>I am against the use of sonar testing in marine life waters,because its a no brainer,if you have empathy for the intelligent cestaceans that have to put</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>up with your bullshit noise.</p> <p>Oceans are homes to sensitive communicating wildlife that hate you and your tax wasting test runs.</p> <p>Do your [expletive deleted] sonar testing in the lab please.</p> <p>Are you fucking intelligent or plain not listening.</p>	<p>Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Wells A-1	<p>I am volunteer at the Point Cabrillo Light Station and have spent time in Baja California, Mexico with Pacific Gray Whales. I also volunteer with the Noyo Marine Science Center in Fort Bragg, CA, helping with the effort to restore the kelp forests. I live on the coastal bluffs and observe marine life daily. I am not opposed to all testing by the Navy. My stepson served in the Navy and I respect its role in protecting the United States; however, I am strongly opposed to the type of testing and the duration planned because of its deleterious effects on a precarious ocean at this delicate time. NOW IS NOT THE TIME! The number of gray whale deaths this year is FIVE TIMES last year or any year previous. The kelp forests are reduced by 93% resulting in starving abalone and the canceling of abalone season, a vital economic resource for the north coast. Bird counts are way down this year. The Mendocino Coast is precious, beautiful and largely unspoiled. DO NOT SPOIL IT! Use your good sense and look to the future. DO NOT SACRIFICE MARINE MAMMAL LIFE AND OUR OWN FUTURES FOR TESTING! Please! NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO TEST AND FURTHER RISK ILL EFFECTS! Keep in mind, too, whales are mammals, intelligent, and long-living. Their suffering matters.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Wells T-1	<p>My wife and I appreciate all the Navy does for us. We are not disturbed by the noise the jets make.</p> <p>In fact we enjoy seeing them overhead doing their thing. We are assured then that our country is training the next generation of protectors. Thank you</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>
Wellspring A-1	<p>I ask that the Navy work fully with Pacific coast Tribes to develop measures that will reduce impacts to the Tribes' cultural ways of life, including culturally and spiritually significant marine species and habitat that are vulnerable to Navy training and testing activities. Working fully with the Tribes means the Navy will meet with them government-to-government. Sonar technology has become so powerful, I have seen videos of whales sticking their heads out of the water to visually try and see the source of their torture when sonar is being used in their environment. The Navy should restrict the use of sonar in all areas of the NWTT zone that weapons</p>	<p>Please see the Navy's response to comments received from the Yurok Tribe.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>are restricted.</p> <p>The Navy should also expand its definition of "best available science" referenced in the Draft SEIS to include Tribal Traditional Knowledge. Since time immemorial, Pacific coast Tribes have used and managed their traditional marine environment, including those areas situated within the Navy's NWTT zone.</p> <p>The Navy's monitoring program must be expanded to include effects of training and testing beyond potential harm to species population levels. Population level effects are insufficient to fully take into account the potential harm that Navy training and testing may cause, because this standard does not fully incorporate the concept that impacts to Tribal cultural resources may not be manifested in physical impacts on marine species. Meaningful, government to government meetings with the Tribes can help the Navy meet their requirement to support cultural survival for these Tribes, which goes beyond counting how many whales did not die from the Navy's use of sonar in an already stressful ecosystem. For example, the Navy should expand its list of environmental "stressors" to include those parts of the Study Area that encompass Tribal cultural resources, and the concept that those resources have intangible features, such as spiritual connections, which will be impacted by the training and testing.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of ocean acidification should be considered in the SEIS. The Draft SEIS concludes that the assessment in the Navy's 2015 Final EIS that impacts to water quality from explosives and explosives by-products in training and testing remains valid and does not need to be reconsidered. Based on studies conducted since 2015, this conclusion neglects to take into account the effect that changes in climate may have on the corrosive power of an increasingly acidic ocean. Specifically, the Draft SEIS does not consider the likelihood that acidification of ocean waters will accelerate corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing.</p> <p>Given this I ask, Does the Navy consider ocean acidification to have no affect on the proposed testing? Does the Navy consider ocean acidification will accelerate the corrosion of explosive devices and byproducts of training and testing?</p>	
Wellspring A-2	<p>Since the Navy wrote this draft supplemental EIS/OEIS, the public on the West Coast has seen and smelled a massive die-off of gray whales. "Federal scientists on Friday, May 31 opened an investigation into what is causing a spike in gray whale deaths along the West Coast this year. So far, about 70</p>	<p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>whales have stranded on the coasts of Washington, Oregon, Alaska and California, the most since 2000" (SFGate June 4, 2019). I do not see in this report an analysis of how many dead sea mammals sink compared to how many humans are able to find. I have read that only 1 of 10 are seen by humans.</p> <p>Given this, I ask that the Navy SEIS address the question: How does the Navy intend to accurately estimate the total number of animals harmed by increased testing of sonar and live weapons, is the Navy using the statistic that 9/10 sink or a different percentage?</p> <p>I strongly believe the Navy must also send scientists out into the Pacific to determine what has caused this gray whale die-off this year, this is new information not included in this SEIS. The Navy must join with the other team of Federal scientists or do their own study. NOAA has called this die-off a "wildlife emergency," there are unknown stressors causing this problem for whales right now. This behooves the Navy to not proceed with the proposed increase in testing, which the Navy admits will have negative consequences on gray whales, during an era of extreme stress for gray whales.</p> <p>As the article quoted above states, this level of gray whale death has not been seen since the year 2000, and by the way, the year is not over and we may see more gray whale deaths to the level that surpasses the year 2000. We are in the midst of this crisis as I write, so I demand that the Navy study the current issues facing gray whales before this EIS is approved.</p> <p>Given this, I ask: What studies has the Navy done to assess the current stressors facing gray whales in the Pacific Ocean? What year, and during what months, and in what locations was the study done, and how does the Navy describe that year as "current"? Does the Navy intend to include the news from Spring 2019 about massive gray whale die-off in this SEIS?</p> <p>Most of the coastal towns in the NWTT area rely on tourism to support us economically, including where I live and work. We have whale festivals and other ocean-themed events to draw tourists to our area. If the Navy introduces more testing of weapons and sonar into the whales' environment, when we are seeing an increase in whale die-off, we will see even more dead whales. This will hurt our economy, especially in towns that have to smell the dead whales that wash to shore.</p> <p>Don't expand Navy testing in the NWTT! Test sonar and explosives farther away from shore, where there are fewer marine mammal species, and time the testing to be when the migrating species are in a different location. This is the most basic environmental choice that could be made, and it is</p>	<p>emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	required now that the whales and all living things are already incredibly stressed by ocean warming, acidification, and die-offs. Thank you for addressing the pressing issues in my comment	
Wellspring V-1	I want to express my dissatisfaction with the state of this meeting. It was my impression that this was going to be a public comment period where people were going to be able to speak into a microphone and say their comments and be heard by the crowd instead of this, where it's a melee of noise. Nobody can hear anything. You can't hear what the official people are saying, nor the comments or questions from the public. I want to request there to be another public comment here in Fort Bragg at Cotton Auditorium where the public can be heard. And also, I do not want the Navy to go forward with these practices and exercises, sonar testing.	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.
Wenham-1	These orca are on the brink of extinction and need protection in every way	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Wesley-1	I am totally against underwater sonar tests etc because of the harm and destruction caused to mammals such as dolphins and whales. Great pods can be torn apart or destroyed, and in a world where we already have the Chinese and Japanese out there killing these beings for greed I think we should do all we can to protect them. Please do what you can, time is running out and things need to change. Thankyou for allowing this public opinion.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
West-1	<p>What are you thinking?! --</p> <p>According to the instructions on this page, to the right of this comment box, I'm supposed to do hours of research, be analytical and specific about what's wrong with your plans to dump "stressors" into the ocean off *our* Pacific Northwest Coastline, and then offer you solutions. Really?</p> <p>I am not a scientist. I am not a political analyst, or an analyst of any kind. I have neither the background knowledge nor the expertise, the resources, nor the time to do all that. I'm just a private citizen -- a "little old lady" -- but having lived on this planet at least as long, if not longer, than most of you, I can tell you that yours is a plan for disaster.</p> <p>The ocean off our coastline -- from the water to all the life in it -- is already under enormous stress.</p> <p>Whatever your purpose, the "stressors" you plan to add are not going to relieve that stress or help the ocean and its inhabitants recover their health.</p> <p>You think of the ocean as your personal, private, highway, play ground and dumping ground. It is not that. The world's oceans are the very heart and lungs of the planet. Destroy them and you destroy the planet and everything living on it -- including yourselves.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Westerholm-1	<p>After 3 generations of vibratory testing all around the Sound, which includes all forms, in air- on land – and sea...we are all pretty much frog smoothys.</p> <p>With the 1958-1960s time frame of Ivy Bells, all of the rest of life was hung out to dry...as we all...have been...[illegible]...disrupted.</p> <p>My job now...as I see it, is to tell folks, that all of you...did not set out to be arses!</p> <p>Out to...'steal a march'...on Russia, and China, you all blundered &amp; buggered life forms...with no way...to fight back.</p> <p>Raise a tankard mates...the rest of us will die...never knowing what was done to us...in the aggregate.</p> <p>We do watch/evaluate our male cousin, who was into Ivy Bells. Now a brittle fundamentalist...who sometimes remembers to...take his lithium.</p> <p>Who it is...who writes you.</p> <p>1938 Jan. 6 Born</p> <p>Farm life - WWII</p> <p>1944-from age 6--packed into "the grey ghost" dad's comm. Fishing boat,</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>subs be damned. (Col. Rivers violent drift. 1945-First grade. Hiked a mile - twice a day. 1946-Herds of animals tame &amp; wild. I learned to read scat. Wonder Woman..Sheena of the jungle. Empowering!!! 1948-Red Fox..to Portland zoo. 1949-1956. Entire month Jan, left [illegible]. school dist. to work trapline with my father. Set traps, gut &amp; [illegible] 1950--to present Rescued: porcupines, crows, lost dogs, wandering people..nonfunctional. Coons. Abused women. The LGBT community.</p>	
Weston-1	Stop sonar testing - please	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Whalen-1	<p>Your intention to test this sonar equipment in the Salish sea will result in the barbaric torture and death of whales and dolphins who navigate by echo location. Humans are not the only species on this planet. Every species is a vital link in nature. Without whales and dolphins, the oceans will die. Without oceans we will die. Your weapons are not going to protect us. Ultimately they will bring about our demise.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Wheeland-1	Please do not use sonar in the ocean!!	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Whirlledge-Karp-1	<p>As a resident of San Juan County, living on Lopez Island I am extremely opposed to any increase in practice landing on Whidbey Island and flights over Island County, San Juan County and Skagit County. Since moving to Lopez Island 15 years ago we have endured an increase in the number and duration of noise from Growler practice flights originating on Whidbey Island. The noise generated by these flights is truly incredibly toxic to every part of one's body and devastating to one's spirit by completely obliterating one's sense of peace of mind and safety. Being outside when these flights occur overhead feels like you are being blasted by a surge of vibrating waves so intense, at times it makes you want to fall to the ground in a fetal position. A moving aircraft causes compression and rarefaction, setting air molecules in motion and producing pressure waves. High-thrust engines, like those in the Growlers, emit low-frequency "windows rattling" pressure waves that penetrate into body organs and cause medical problems. The intensity, frequency, duration, and altitude of the Growlers is a threat to public health because of the deafening and toxic noise they produce. I have been at Lopez School when all activity has had to stop until the noise dissipates enough to continue with the educational programs. I have been in meetings when no conversation could continue until the horrible vibrating roar ceased after 1 to 2 minutes. The Navy's noise assessment is inaccurate and misleading. The affect of weather, cloud cover and location along the waters edge all intensify the vibration and duration of the Growler noise.</p> <p>Many communities around the Salish Sea depend on tourisms. The noise generated from Growler practice landings and flights, creates an element of sheer terror due to the horrendous noise on all those visiting and living in our communities.</p> <p>We grow a large portion of our food for the year in our organic garden areas. Jet engines do not burn cleanly, but their toxic by-products tend to disperse high in the atmosphere. Toxic particulates fill our air, fall into our waters, and drift down to our soils. Healthy food cannot grow on acreage exposed to constant pollution from above, which is why California—with strict clean air regulations— prohibits such maneuvers.</p> <p>The pod of Southern resident orcas that inhabits the Salish Sea is on the decline; only 75 remain. The two newborn calves are especially at high risk for survival. Both high and low frequency noise have negative impacts on whales' ability to navigate and identify food. The carbon dioxide in jet exhaust acidifies the water, damaging the web of marine life that sustain salmon, the orca's primary food source. Additionally, chemical compounds</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>from the Navy's fire fighting fire retardant, already in Whidbey's aquifer, enter Puget Sound as surface run-off. These effects, taken together, will further stress the pod and may make the difference between survival and extinction.</p> <p>Pacific Northwest reserves, parks, and monuments provide a home for birds, mammals, and marine life. Migration patterns, mating habits, and feeding patterns are disturbed by noise from the Growlers. The presence of the Growlers conflicts with an important mission of the National Parks Service to preserve the soundscape of parks. Pets at our homes cower under the duress of the noise from overhead flights even with our comforting and reassurances. How stressful this must be to all wildlife. A four-fold increase in Grouler flights will add 60,000 metric tons of additional carbon dioxide—a known cause of climate change— and speed ocean acidification, harming coral reefs, shellfish, and marine ecosystems. Finally, I have recently learned that the runway where practice take off/landings occur is unsafe. The 5,400-foot runway, built prior to 1943 to accommodate aircraft built in the 1940s, is nearly 3,500 feet too short for Grouler jet "touch and go" operations, which require 8,800 feet. The runway cannot be extended. For 32 years, the runway has failed to meet Navy runway safety standards. Thus, the Navy is putting its own pilots in danger by asking them to train on an inadequate runway. Pilots should have the best possible training, and the Navy should provide a training site that provides realistic carrier landing and takeoff conditions in a way that does not needlessly endanger pilots or civilians.</p> <p>Please hear my comments and desist from further flight training of Growlers from Whidbey Island and any training flights over San Juan County and other areas in our region.</p>	
White E-1	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to underwater sonar testing in the Puget Sound and Salish Sea area where the Souther Resident Killer Whales often reside. It is incredibly harmful to marine creatures in the water and how in 2019 is this still what the navy is using underwater sonar technology when it is well known and documented, by scientists and the Navy that it kills marine animals.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
White K-1	I am strongly apposed to any further sonar testing,I don't think it is necessary anymore,if you don't know how harmful it is to our marine life by now there is no hope for your program and I think you should scrap it.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
White S-1	<p>The Navy must not be allowed to conduct training exercises around Olympic National Park, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other sensitive areas in Puget Sound. The majority of these training exercises do not have to be conducted along our shoreline and could instead be conducted far from shore minimizing the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities. There has been no evaluation for other locations which could significantly reduce the harmful impacts of these exercises. The Department of Defense is charged with defending the United States—not destroying all of its beauty and natural resources.</p> <p>Further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many communities around Puget Sound depend on tourism, especially those on the Olympic Peninsula and our islands. (Olympic National Park is by far the largest contributor to the Olympic Peninsula economy.) Allowing the area to become a giant military staging ground will cripple the tourism industry and threaten small businesses: inns, B&amp;Bs, restaurants, farms, wineries/distilleries, retailers, and outdoor recreation (whalewatching, diving, kayaking, paddle boarding, boating). Outdoor recreation is valued at \$21.6 billion and helps to create 199,000 jobs. Outdoor enthusiasts spend the most when they are recreating on the water. This is more than the \$15 billion contributed to our economy by military and defense industries. Jobs in Washington depend on its pristine skies, lands, and waters.</li> <li>• Puget Sound is the nation's second largest estuary. The waters of the Salish Sea are some of the most biologically significant and productive marine areas in the world, home to both abundant and threatened species of marine life, including six endangered whale species, threatened Stellar sea lions, threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and rockfish species, and endangered leatherback sea turtles. The rivers of Olympic Peninsula are important habitat where salmon reproduce. Aircraft noise</li> </ul>	The analysis of the potential impacts related to the issues described in the comment can be found in Chapter 3 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>and sonic booms have been implicated as a cause of lowered reproduction in a variety of animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pod of Southern resident orcas that inhabits the Salish Sea is on the decline; only 74 remain. Both high and low frequency noise have negative impacts on whales' ability to navigate and identify food. The carbon dioxide in jet exhaust acidifies the water, damaging the web of marine life that sustain salmon, the orca's primary food source. Additionally, chemical compounds from the Navy's fire fighting fire retardant, already in Whidbey's aquifer, enter Puget Sound as surface run-off. These effects, taken together, will further stress the pod and may make the difference between survival and extinction.</li> <li>• The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary includes 3,188 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline. The sanctuary extends 25 to 50 miles seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons. The sanctuary protects a productive upwelling zone, home to marine mammals and seabirds. Along its shores are thriving kelp and intertidal communities, teeming with fishes and other sea life. Scattered communities of deepsea coral and sponges form habitats for fish and other important marine wildlife.</li> <li>• Olympic National Park is home to the endangered spotted owl and the endangered marbled murrelet. Its coastline is the biannual flyway for billions of migrating birds that depend on navigational signals disrupted by the jets. Growlers also collide with birds.</li> <li>• Increased noise over the Olympic National Park may threaten its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve.</li> <li>• The San Juan Islands National Monument encompasses 1,000 acres spread across a unique archipelago of 450 islands, rocks, and pinnacles that includes scientific and historic treasures, a refuge for wildlife, and a classroom for generations of Americans.</li> <li>• America has a proud tradition of setting aside lands for public enjoyment. Public enjoyment is inconsistent with the purposes of a military installation conducting warfare exercises.</li> <li>• Pacific Northwest reserves, parks, and monuments provide a home for birds, mammals, and marine life. Migration patterns, mating habits, and feeding patterns are disturbed by noise from the Growlers. The presence of the Growlers conflicts with an important mission of the National Parks Service to preserve the soundscape of parks.</li> </ul>	



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Whitesavage-1	<p>The Navy planes create noise that is seriously disruptive to a large area on Whidbey Island reaching across the inlet to Port Townsend and the Olympic Peninsula. This region is highly sensitive in that it is a hub of commerce with the international shipping canal, a protected farmland hub for Washington State, water that is home to endangered resident Orca Whales, and a ever growing tourist economy.</p> <p>The poisoning of aquifers due to dumping of flame retardants by the planes is a serious and deadly crime that cannot be fixed by throwing money at it. The planes have outgrown their place in this region. Time to relocate.</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Wichert-1	<p>It is clear that testing hurts the marine life in the area. Those animals are suffering enough. Take your testing elsewhere.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Wickens-Jobling-1	<p>We have lived in Oak Bay for almost six years now and the only complaint we have is about the 'Growlers' that continue to fly above us and make an incredible racket. Please do not increase the number of these planes in our area.</p>	<p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment in the vicinity of Oak Bay. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.</p>
Wiegand-1	<p>I live thousands of miles away from the US or the waters off Seattle. But I strongly urge the navy to not use sonar in the salish sea where the southern residents are roaming. This population only contains 76 individuals anymore. They are facing extinction. Please do not worsen their suffering. Humans have done them enough harm. Besides, spare the thousands of other whales, porpoises or seals that suffer from sonar use. Do your training somewhere else please.</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Wiese-1	I believe a substantive error has occurred in your analysis. The problems facing our nation, our region, and our one-and-only world cannot be solved by more Growlers or sonar explosions. We are facing climate chaos and the critical loss of clean potable water, habitable oceans, oxygen-producing forests, and productive, arable land across every border on Earth. Please stop adding to the problems and instead refocus the vast resources and skills of the Navy toward life-affirming activities. Thank you for looking with your hearts at ways the Navy can rapidly address the true threats to the world we are creating for children of the future.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Wikler-1	There is no scenario in which testing involving sonic blasts and the setting off of explosives in our oceans is safe. Here in the Pacific Northwest, we are seismically unstable. No amount of seismological research can define a "safe" level of setting off powerful blasts, designed to destroy, that will not increase our risk of tsunamis and earthquakes. No amount of biological research can define a program for detonating explosives or setting off sonic blasts in the ocean that will fail to have a significantly adverse effect on our oceans' ecosystems and the fragile flora and fauna that are already dangerously stressed by climate change, pollution, over-fishing, and other human interference. Please abandon any plans to do this. In human medicine we are learning how to develop and teach procedures without actually having to perform them. Surely the Navy has conducted enough research to do the same. Thank you.	There is no evidence to suggest that any of the Navy's activities could trigger earthquakes. In fact, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) dismisses the likelihood of even nuclear explosions triggering earthquakes (see USGS Frequently Asked Questions - <a href="https://www.usgs.gov/science-explorer-results?es=nuclear&amp;classification=faq">https://www.usgs.gov/science-explorer-results?es=nuclear&amp;classification=faq</a> ).
Wiley-1	I have commented since the very beginning. I was told that I would be a "stakeholder" but received no further information from the Navy. The Navy is not being "a good neighbor", a quote I heard at a meeting once by a Navy representative. The Growler noise is impacting every species that is alive in the area over which they fly. The cumulative effects of high decibel rating noise has been shown to the Navy and they do not care. In fact, they are adding more planes into an area known for it's peacefulness and solitude. Children in schools or playing at home on a summer day are affected. The Navy does not care. They are a neighbor that will damage your hearing and test your sanity. The Growler pollutants impact all land and bodies of water. The Navy does not care. This is a land of water ways and lakes. They are a polluting neighbor.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>The firefighting foam has poisoned the wells and waterways of Whidbey Island. The Navy does not care. They only ramp up training and provide cheap bottled water that is known to contain arsenic. This is not something a good neighbor does.</p> <p>They once used the Yakima range, which still exists, now they use our beloved National Park. Climbers in the Olympics get a blast of ear deafening Growler noises up to 16 hours a day during peak climbing season, as none of the parameters included being 1200 feet above a mountain top. If they climb with ear protection, they cannot hear their team members rope commands.</p> <p>The Navy is not a good neighbor.</p> <p>Even now, with all that we know about sonar and munitions testing, the Navy feels that the loss of whales, leather back turtles and dolphins along our coastal beach nearshore, is acceptable. This is cruel and despicable. They have known for a LONG time what sonar does to these creatures, but continue to "train" and destroy. Not even a horrible neighbor would do this intentionally. They would be jailed. The Navy gets a free ride at taxpayer expense and loss, to destroy in the name of "Freedom" our beautiful lands, people and animals. How much more war does this war hungry country need?</p>	
Wiley-1	<p>We respect your mission but do not ruin the peaceful and calm feeling of a small seaside town by flying Growlers over our airspace! Do these exercises far out over the ocean. Please respect our community. Thank you!</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Williams-1	<p>I'm 69 years old, worked three years commercial fishing. I've been watching the ocean deteriorate from observing the changes in the beaches here and the fishing catch and the behavior of marine animals.</p> <p>I believe that the Navy's testing and training has a negative impact on</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>ocean life. I hope that the Marine Mammal Protection Act, I believe it should be invoked to maximum effect and no authorization be issued by the National Fisheries Service because commercial whaling is presently occurring by the Japanese fleet in the North Pacific.</p> <p>Also, gray whales this year are malnourished as proven by autopsies of beached whales this spring, almost 30 known on the West Coast in the last month, and that's only a percentage of dead and dying whales.</p> <p>Weapons testing has a negative effect on all species including humans and those who participate in it. Our military currently spends more money than all other militaries combined.</p> <p>My father was an Annapolis Naval Academy graduate, and I fully recognize the U.S. Navy's sense of discipline, honor, and duty. However, to continue current and proposed weapons testing benefits only the makers of weapons and associated industries. Our national security would be furthered more by providing aid to those who need it; for example, the people of Mozambique.</p> <p>I hope you consider my opinion. Thank you.</p>	<p>to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Willmes-1	<p>Hello. I object to sonar testing in the Salish Sea as it can be harmful to Marine</p> <p>Whom rely on sound to communicate, locate food, avoid predators and navigate. Exposure to sound could change their behavior and can be thrown off. Limiting their ability to recognize sound frequencies can affect their survival. This includes but is not limited to the endangered southern resident orcas.</p> <p><a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/navy-plans-testing-of-futuristic-technology-sonar-harm-to-mammals-in-pacific-northwest/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/navy-plans-testing-of-futuristic-technology-sonar-harm-to-mammals-in-pacific-northwest/</a></p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Wilmot-1	<p>AS A FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER OF VAQ-135 AND THE NAVY'S TEST PILOT FOR THE EA-6B PROWLER. I CAN TELL YOU THAT THIS PROJECT WILL PROVIDE THE ELECTRONIC WARFARE COMMUNITY WITH A MUCH NEEDED RESOURCE FOR TRAINING AIRCREWS, AT THE SAME NOT AFFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT (DESPITE THE OPPONENTS OF THIS PROJECT'S UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY). THE LOCATION IN A SPARSELY POPULATED AREA IS IDEAL BECAUSE IT ALLOWS THE EMITTER OPERATORS TO MOVE THEIR EQUIPMENT TO DIFFERENT SITES, THUS TESTING THE EW CREWS' ABILITY TO ACQUIRE AND LOCATE THE EMITTERS WITHOUT HARMING WILDLIFE OR INTERFERING WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF HUMANS.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i><b>Commenter</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>	<i><b>Navy Response</b></i>
Wilson AI-1	To the U.S. Navy, Please stop conducting your harmful sonar practices. You are harming innocent whales and marine life. Find another place to go about the sonar technology or stop it completely. Enough is enough, when is the government going to start caring about biodiversity? The planet is in a critical state as it is and you are making matters worse for no good reason.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Wilson Au-1	Please protect the orcas from donor.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Wilson R-1	To know you are deafening marine life I think you should be drowned. How can you knowingly harm anything. There is something very wrong with idly standing by and letting this happen that is why we are speaking out.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Wilson S-1	I strongly disapprove of the US Navy proposal to fly 5000 Growler jets over the Olympic national park and the marine sanctuary areas of Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean. People do not travel from around the world to hear earsplitting noises while enjoying this exceptional marine ecosystem, stunning temperate rainforest and spectacular undeveloped coastline. I also do not approve of “incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine animals” in Puget Sound. We must require that the United States Naval flight operations over these waters adhere to the legal agreement to protect the critically endangered Orcas, and the salmon that they depend	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy’s ocean stewardship programs, visit:

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>on for food. Please note the text of the KOMO news story about this legal reality and the Federal agencies required adherence to the Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>KOMO News April 15, 2019</p> <p>“SEATTLE (AP) — The federal government says that by October it will propose expanded habitat protections off Washington, Oregon and California for Pacific Northwest orcas. The announcement comes in response to a lawsuit filed by the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity, which sued in 2018 to make officials move more quickly to protect the endangered orcas. The whales spend their summers in the waters between Washington state and Canada, but about two-thirds of the year they migrate and forage for salmon off the West Coast. The conservation group said the National Marine Fisheries Service had been dragging its feet in designating 'critical habitat' for the whales in those foraging and migration areas. Under the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies must ensure that activities they pay for, permit or carry out do not harm such habitat.”</p> <p><a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/northwest-orcas-to-get-expanded-habitat-protection-feds-say?fbclid=IwAR3l1FlavdnSx7vLaOWyIC1IS28v9sEOyBdz8HekGOa4UK5DkohmiiuWIM4">https://komonews.com/news/local/northwest-orcas-to-get-expanded-habitat-protection-feds-say?fbclid=IwAR3l1FlavdnSx7vLaOWyIC1IS28v9sEOyBdz8HekGOa4UK5DkohmiiuWIM4</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy’s Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research’s Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy’s project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTTEIS.com">www.NWTTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Winder-1	<p>I have just learned of an EIS put out by the U.S. Navy on March 29, which is very disturbing to me. The only EIS alternative that is acceptable is the No Action Alternative. The other options given are unacceptable to the environment and life on the Olympic Peninsula. Alternatives 1 and 2 would cause unforgiveable and unnecessary damage to Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Alternative 2 is the most extreme. The length of the EIS, the great area it affects, and the many people it affects requires a 90-day comment period. This, so the EIS can be examined properly and thoroughly. Please ask the Navy for another 14-day extension of the comment period. The noise from multiple jet flights over the western and northern parts of the Peninsula will chase residents and visitors away. This will affect the health and economy of the Peninsula and the state of Washington. The search pattern of jet Growler flights looking for emitters would roar above the ocean beaches; the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges; Washington State Department of Natural Resources land; Quinault, Quileute and Hoh Reservations; and thousands of acres of private land, including the towns of Forks and Amanda Park. The Navy admits to 85–100 decibels of noise per pass. That is enough to cause</p>	<p>The original 60-day comment period was extended by 15 days for a 75-day comment period.</p> <p>The Navy’s proposed activities will not result in chronic noise at sound levels that would result in the health effects described in this comment. The predicted noise levels can be found in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis). The potential effects of Growler and other activities on the environment are discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA’s designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA’s designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	hearing loss and contribute to other health problems. People in Forks have recorded 94 decibel flights under the current operations. While noise is known to affect people and no studies have been done on the iconic Olympic elk, it is not difficult to reason they would be similarly affected, being mammals of a similar weight. The military training in the Marine Sanctuary would do damage to the ocean beaches, the marine animals of the coast, the nesting areas of many of Washington's shorebirds, migrating whales, and the birds that use the Pacific Flyway. The Navy has denied flying over Olympic National Park. This is untrue. Not only is this untrue, it is impossible not to fly these missions over the Park. This degradation of the Olympic Peninsula's environment is unacceptable. For 112 years, Congress and presidents have set aside areas of the Peninsula to protect its valuable environment. Irreparable damage would be caused if the activities are done as stated in the Navy EIS/OEIS Mar 2019 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Northwest Training and Testing. Please stop this plan by the Navy. The training has been done elsewhere. It can be done elsewhere. Wild places are not empty places just waiting for an invasion by the military. Our national security must also include environmental security.	where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Windfeldt-1	Testing sonar in the Salish Sea region will have a detrimental affect on the critically endangered Southern Resident Orcas - of which only 76 remain - and Humpback whales. In addition a large number of non-endangered marine wildlife will also be negatively impacted repeatedly. The Navy is on record for acknowledging the damage and dangers of sonar to marine wildlife. Any sonar testing in the Salish Sea or Puget sound will violate the National Marine Protection Act. Please include me on the supplemental EIS/OEIS mailing list.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.  You have been added to the NWTT mailing list.
Wing G-1	Our northwest public lands, and especially our national parks, are a haven. Not only do they harbor endangered species whose habits and needs we are only beginning to understand, they also harbor people in search of ancestral quiet. And those people--tourists and people like me who live nearby--bring with us the needs and the money to provide livelihoods to a whole peninsula of fellow northwesterners. If the skies above Olympic	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	National Park turn as noisy as those above MY house on Lopez Island, the idea of "haven" will become joke. Word will spread about the noise pollution of the increased Growler presence. Tourists will head elsewhere to find their haven of quiet. And who even knows how the noise will affect the non-human species who live in the Olympics? Not us...and if the Growlers traffic increases, it may soon be too late for us to know.	minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Wing L-1	Many marine animals rely on sound to communicate, locate food, avoid predators and navigate. Intense or repeated exposure to certain frequencies of sonar could will also affect animals' ability to hear sounds in those ranges. This will only limit these species survivor. Don't forget IN 2005, 34 WHALES DIED BECAUSE OF NAVY SONAR TRAINING. Please request that all funding for the low frequency active sonar be terminated. The two major reasons for terminating this program are the severe environmental damage LFAS can inflict on marine life and the availability of passive listening devices to achieve the same national security purpose (detection of silent submarines) without causing such harm. I Request to be included on the Supplemental EIS/OEIS mailing list to receive notification of public meetings and project information.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. You have been added to the NWTT mailing list.
Winslow-1	I am against the Navy's plan to use the Northern California Coastal Waters for training and testing exercises. We do not need more sacrifice zones. This is a whale corridor and one of the last safe places for wildlife to live. Please exempt this area from your plan. Your work will cause irreversible harm to wildlife resources in this area.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Winters-1	I am concerned that the Navy's plans for the Washington Coast will adversely effect all of the animals and fish that call this area home. I am particularly concerned about our Southern Resident Orca population which is struggling and on the verge of extinction. We need to do all we can to assure that these animals thrive. I am afraid that the Navy's plans off our coast will be one more blow against the Orca; it will truly be a crime if this population goes extinct under our stewardship.	The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.  The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Winters-2	<p>I live in Port Townsend, just South of the Navy base on Whidbey Island across Admiralty Inlet. I frequently hear the Navy jets flying up and down The Straits of Juan de Fuca and directly over Port Townsend. The noise level is often high enough that it is difficult to have a outdoor conversations. The noise level is also high enough indoors that sleeping is difficult and doing any kind of focused thinking is difficult. I don't mind 10 or 20 minutes of noise during daylight hours but the jets often start flying at 5 pm and continue till well past 10 pm. This is very aggravating, ruining what should be a quiet, peaceful time of day and making it very difficult to sleep. It is my understanding that the Navy intends to increase the number of flights by a factor of 4, adding 36 new Growler jets to the existing fleet. I also understand that many of the Growlers will soon be equipped with more powerful, louder engines than the planes that are currently flying. I am extremely concerned that this will hurt our local economy, much of which is based on outdoor recreation. Who wants to vacation in a place contaminated with jet engine noise? I am concerned that property values in all the areas exposed to the jet noise will diminish. Who wants to live in a place where you are exposed to jet noise? It is my understanding that the Navy's expansion plans will also bring over 600 new personnel and their families to an area with almost no housing inventory. This will deplete our already limited workforce housing and force current residents to move. We live in one of the most pristine, peaceful and beautiful areas in the world. It is bad enough that we are already putting up with excessive jet engine noise. Multiplying our current load by a factor of 4 is completely unacceptable.</p>	<p>The Navy is not proposing to increase Growler activity by 400%. While the increase in the level of activities was reflected in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy has made revisions to clarify that the increase results in approximately 300 additional aircraft flights per year.</p> <p>When looking at the proposed increase in EA-18G Growler flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), it is important to consider this increase in the proper context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on an analysis that included weekdays and weekends, the FAA determined that over the Olympic National Park, Navy aircraft account for only 25 percent of all flights below 35,000 ft. altitude and 38 percent of all flights below 18,000 ft. altitude.</li> <li>2. Most Navy flights in the Olympic MOA occur on weekdays, and during daylight hours (approximately 6 percent of flights occur at night). The military averages about 2,300 flights per year over the Olympic MOA; approximately 8.8 flights per day if averaged over weekdays only (6.3 flights per day averaged over a 365-day year).</li> <li>3. The proposed increase of 300 total flights per year averages to just over one additional flight per day.</li> <li>4. In the past, when the Navy had over 200 tactical aircraft assigned to NAS Whidbey Island, it conducted up to three times as many flight operations compared to today, including projections with the increase to 118 Growlers. Far more training events then involved low-level maneuvers due to the type of aircraft involved.</li> </ol> <p>The GE F414-400 enhanced engine is currently only in a research phase for the Navy, and is not installed in any aircraft, nor are there plans to purchase or install it. If this engine were to be introduced to the fleet of F/A-18E/F and EA-18G aircraft, the Navy would measure the noise emissions from this new engine.</p> <p>The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include relocation of personnel. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a></p>
Winters-3	<p>I live in Port Townsend and listen to jet noise very frequently. My understanding is that the Growlers currently fly about 3050 flights per year. If the Navy continues with their plans then the Growlers will fly about 12,000 flights per year. This is outrageous! We live in one of the most</p>	<p>Please see response to Winters-2.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	beautiful places on earth in a small town that is very quiet and peaceful. Jet noise on any level is simply unacceptable! Multiplying the jet noise we are currently hearing by a factor of four is crazy! Our economy is largely based on tourism. Who is going to want to vacation in a town with constant jet engine noise? This is a very serious threat to our property values and our economy!	
Wisner-1	I am only here just to offer my support for the work the Navy is doing. I've been in Merchant Marines for 47 years, still in it, and I'm a firm believer in training and practice. I understand its importance. I have had experience with sonar in some of my jobs in the past, and I don't believe it's -- it's injurious to all of the mammals. And so I'm just here to offer my support and -- and that's it, I think.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.
Wodjenski-1	I submitted the attached letter while living at our former residence. We moved out of the area largely to distance ourselves from the noxious noise levels on Morris Road, close to OLF Coupeville.	The attached is a comment letter addressing the Growler EIS. The activities proposed in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS do not include activities described in the comment letter. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a description of the location of these activities. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com">http://www.whidbeyeis.com</a>
Wolfe-1	The Olympic National Park and surrounds is like no other. After studies, it was found to be the most quiet place in the continental United States. Certainly the Navy can respect this park and find alternative places to train.	The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.  The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.
Wolfson-1	Please respect the waters and stop using sonar and testing. Our marine mammals need protection. the challenges before us w/ climate change and catastrophe already [pose a major threat to many species. These measures have played a direct role in harming endangered marine life and threaten the biodiversity of the ocean's ecosystem. This is a critical and acute time to leave some environments intact.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species. You have been added to the NWTT mailing list.
Wolhandler-1	As one of the poorer rural counties, I have concerns that we cannot pay our own professional team to monitor sound to protect our wildlife or oil leakage from Navy vessels. Any detonation near the coastline could cause serious overall environmental harm. Tourism is pretty much all we have left after a past that has destroyed our fishing and timber industries. A military presence here ( other than the Coast Guard, which is much appreciated) would negatively impact the serenity and natural beauty that people travel great distances to experience.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li><li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li><li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li><li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li><li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li></ul>
Wolman-1	Hail, O Whale Watery neighbor Spouting good news We're Here! Please protect the gray whale migration route. We're losing so much life on the planet, and cetaceans are one of the higher life forms, with high intelligence. Navy sonar is well known to damage the hearing these creatures rely on to orient themselves and communicate. Your signals also confuse them. Please stay far away from the West Coast and if you must do your testing, do it in deep water.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.  You have been added to the NWTT mailing list.
Wood E-1	This is wrong, and you know it. All of our actions impact the natural world, and simply receiving a rubber stamp does not exonerate you from the undoubtedly harmful repercussions. Find another way.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Wood N-1	With the recent loss of biodiversity and the increasing amount of animals being added to the endangered species list, the last thing we need is more negative human interference. The coasts need help recovering from all the damage we have none. The money going to this would be much more beneficial if it were instead used to clean our coasts and protect the animals.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Woodbridge-1	I am a long time resident of San Juan Island. I live here because of the beautiful environment and the closeness of nature. The quiet of the islands, the absence of urban noise, is a vital part of living here. During the last many months, the dreadful deep roar of Whidbey Island jets has repeatedly and very often overwhelmed and destroyed the acoustic environment. Many times the jets fly for hours and hours at a stretch, obliterating all other sounds of the environment and overwhelming even sounds indoors with windows closed. Many nights the jets fly long into the night. Noise of this sort is a pernicious form of pollution, causing a perpetual stress response, affecting everyone at their deepest level of being. A great deal of recent scientific research concerning noise in the environment indicates clearly that the effects of noise on health are similar to the effects of many other forms of pollution. Effects of noise are profound, whether they are distant or immediate. The duration, quality, and vibrational level of noise can be as important as the volume. Noise affects all of us, whether we hear it or not, whether we experience it as painful or not. Just as some sounds can be instantaneously calming, other qualities of sound can be instantaneously shattering. The effects of these experiences don't have to reach the level of awareness to be profound	Growler noise on San Juan Island and Whidbey Island are outside the scope of the NWTTEIS. Please refer to the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations Final EIS located at <a href="http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx">http://www.whidbeyeis.com/CurrentEISDocuments.aspx</a> for a comprehensive look at Growler activities and impacts in your area.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>nonetheless. The effects can be insidious and cumulative. The noise from the jets on Whidbey Island is dreadful, in the literal sense of the word dread-full. The noise shatters calm, shatters all other sounds of the environment. Even in our busy modern world, we rely on sounds from the environment for vital and meaningful information, coming to us all the time from our surroundings, both near and far. It is part of our genetic heritage to be attuned to sound and to be responsive to sound. We respond, consciously or not, to sounds such as those from the jets, with dread and alarm. It is medically well established that this causes a cascade stress response within us which contributes negatively to all manner of health problems. A stress reaction to which we can respond meaningfully is entirely different from a stress response that is ongoing and outside our ability to affect or escape. This creates a situation conducive to illness, to aggravating other pre-existing medical conditions, and interrupts that which is required for health, healing, and well-being. Recent and ongoing scientific studies also indicate clearly the importance of the acoustic environment for other species.</p> <p>Studies about noise in the environment are ongoing and current. Scientific findings support and confirm individuals' experience of the very harmful effects of noise on health and well being. It is recognized globally that noise of this sort is one of the terrible impacts of war. It is wrong to allow noise of this sort to destroy the quality of life for all residents in the northern Puget Sound and Salish Sea.</p>	
Woodland-1	Anything that hurts animals is beyond despicable. This is not necessary!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> </ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Woods M-1	<p>As a resident on the shore of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary for 40% of the year, and as someone who hikes and fishes along the Queets, Bogachiel, Hoh, and Quinault Rivers toward the interior Olympic Mountains, I can verify from personal experience that the current navy training regimens are at minimum disruptive and at maximum lethal to resident wildlife.</p> <p>We can count on fighter jet noise daily in the middle of the day. When in the forest interior, the animals startle and then hide, birds shriek and rise in flocks, and there is an unnatural stillness following the assault. The decibels are much higher than normal forest sounds, and do disturb the ecosystem. This is a daily occurrence.</p> <p>While I cannot see what goes on under the surface of the sea, I can report that on a single day in August 2018, there were 3 sea lions dead or dying on the beach near Kalaloch. Many people, myself included, were reporting this event to the rangers. The two smaller sea lions were dead, with congealed blood around their heads, and the larger one had beached himself and was alternating between laying flat and raising his head to swivel it blindly in what appeared to be pain. I am not a scientist, but between the blood, agonized movements, and actual death of 3 animals in close proximity and time (I have never seen this before in 40 years of walking that coast) I could only wonder if underwater sonic experiences had ruptured these animals heads in some way. If so, I would hate to have that be caused by naval exercises, especially in a Marine Sanctuary.</p> <p>Military training exercises do not have to be conducted within a National Park and National Marine Sanctuary. They could be conducted in a more populated area that does not host wild and endangered species, in areas where noise levels are already at similar ranges, and the exercises would be merely one activity among many. If these trainings are necessary, please move them to environments where they would have minimal impact on birds, fish, marine mammals, other wildlife and communities.</p>	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Woods W-1	<p>Regarding NWT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, I support an immediate ending of all aerial training above National Parks, designated Wilderness Areas, National Wildlife Refuges and sovereign tribal lands. Flights taking place over the past several years have desecrated national treasures including the Olympic and North Cascades National Parks, Pasayten, Alpine Lakes and Colonel Bob Wildernesses and many National Wildlife areas, as well as been disrespectful to the sovereignty of the Quinault Indian Nation and other tribes. I have made a home on the Olympic Peninsula since 1965,</p>	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations);</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>and support our military. However, in all the years I have lived there, never has frequency of damaging noise been at this level. The scientific consequences to wildlife are numerous, including nesting and reproduction success and damage to vital organs. Humans' ability to enjoy the solitude and beauty of our sacred natural areas has been disrupted to such an extent that I sometimes avoid the outdoors. Flight training and testing in this area is absolutely inappropriate for these reasons.</p> <p>As for Naval sea and sub-surface activities, I again call upon the U.S. Navy to immediately halt all advanced low-decibel sonar activity. We live adjacent to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and have witnessed an extremely disturbing increase in the number of dead and dying sea mammals on our beaches over the past three years. This sanctuary, already under environmental stress, must be spared the additional degradation and slaughter caused by Naval maneuvers and testing.</p>	<p>however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with the National Marine Sanctuary Program regulations and the interagency consultation requirements of National Marine Sanctuaries Act section 304(d), the Navy considered all proposed modifications to training and testing activities to determine whether they have the potential to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure sanctuary resources, or result in adverse impacts on sanctuary resources or qualities. Accordingly, the Navy and NMFS submitted a joint Sanctuary Resource Statement to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.</p> <p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
Woodward-1	<p>Following centuries of disregard, we have reached the unfortunate juncture where we can no longer ignore the impact of our activities on the world around us. We have numerous studies carefully documenting the impact of noise above and below ground. The current proposals flaunt the findings of those studies in favor of increased military activity. While acknowledging and appreciating the work of our military, we must also know where to draw the line. Where is Whibey; now is NOW.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Woollett-1	<p>I am 100% against underwater sonar testing which has been proven to harm marine animals. It is time to act before there is too much harm done. Please stop this now before the damage is irreversible..</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<p>EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>You have been added to the NWTT mailing list.</p>
Worthington-1	Please see the document attached.	Please see the responses to Friel-2 through Friel-11.
Wright D-1	<p>I am very worried to hear of your plans to run tests of such magnitude in the marine environment. This is home to numerous species would be destructive to them to say the least.</p> <p>I object most strongly and declare it an act of violence against our planet.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy.marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTEIS.com">www.NWTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Wright D-2	<p>On April 24, 2019, I was introduced to the Navy's Northwest Training and Testing Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement. The Open House Public Meeting was held in Everett WA.</p> <p>It is evident the Navy has done a lot of work to demonstrate how they have considered means to protect wildlife and environment during the operations proposed. I think important issues have been left out. The wildlife, environment and economic viability of the Northwest is as important to me as the going forward with proposed operations here in the Northwest is to the Navy.</p> <p>Asked why they have chosen to operate over some of our most precious natural resources, The reply from the Navy was "...the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars", "our personnel love the area", and "the Navy has been here for over 75 years."</p> <p>The Growler noise flying over the Olympics is very disturbing to the wildlife and people who enjoy the hiking, camping, birding, and other wonderful</p>	<p>The noise model used, MR_Nmap uses state of the art science and is the appropriate method to evaluate aircraft noise in special use airspace such as the Olympic MOA. This model is approved by the FAA for these types of analyses.</p> <p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II. The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing</p>



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>activities that can be enjoyed right here in our National Park. The National Park is so quiet and there are so few places where quiet can be enjoyed. My concern is that the noise testing for operations has not been done by the most current modeling software to estimate the noise levels on the ground and ask that the testing be done again by up to date equipment. When I travel to enjoy some of my favorite places on the Olympic Peninsula the disturbing noise of the Growlers will ruin my trip. I have friends who tried to camp at Deception Pass on Whidbey Island and the Growler noise was so loud they had to leave. They traveled from California to enjoy the beauty of the Northwest. They then headed for the Olympic National Park where they were convinced they would enjoy a quiet and amazing experience. I have other friends who have reported that the noise of the Growler jets is very disturbing when they were hiking on the Olympic Peninsula.</p> <p>Having been born and raised in Everett, WA, I experienced the planes from Paine Field in the 60's that flew just over my house. We also enjoyed our beach place on Whidbey Island. After I retired, I sold my home in Everett and moved to Whidbey Island. My father was a pilot in the Army Air Corps where he taught aerobatics. My stepfather was a Navy Captain. In Everett the Navy has been wonderful neighbors and we have included them in our community. Many retire in the area.</p> <p>Our national security is important to me and so is peace and tranquility at home - for which we fight to protect.</p> <p>Please consider another location for these training operations. Best use of the tax payer dollars for training operations should not include the degradation of our communities and national park areas by loud Growler training operations. There are other locations better suited for these operations. Navy personnel who love the area here can come back and enjoy our closely protected and pristine National Park and Whidbey Island.</p>	<p>and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Wright G-1	<p>I traveled from Colorado specifically to visit the quiet place of the Hoh Rainforest. What a shame that it has been ruined by this noise caused by the planes. It is such an intrusion on the citizens here and will certainly impact tourism to this area. We also were shocked at the noise caused by the planes throughout our trip in other areas of Washington. I was so looking forward to it, but will not be back. Shame, shame.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Wright H-1	<p>We are all one. You hurt one of us, you hurt us all. Please dont hurt our whales and other marine life.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	Please dont do this. Please.	<p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Wright Ja-1	Are you not going to be happy until you kill everything in the ocean!!!	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Wright Je-1	My name is Jeff Wright, and I have been to several of these hearings. I first want to invoke the name of Rosalind Peterson. And she passed away recently; I'm not sure of her age or what the cause of her demise was. But she used to come to these meetings extremely well prepared and brief people on the issues and have posters and alternative aspects of the research she had done versus what the Navy had done. And by reference, I want to include her in this documentation and in this record for anything	<p>Thank you for your comment. While there is no existing research on the impact sonar may have on the breakdown of plastics in the ocean, the information you provided will help the Navy determine funding for future projects.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>she's ever contributed in the past. And all previous records of all previous hearings here in Fort Bragg, in Eureka, on the dark side of the moon, wherever they may have occurred concerning this issue I want incorporated in the record concerning this. I believe that they probably already are, but I want to make sure that absolutely they are, and so I'm doing that for the record. All previous documentation and hearings and stenographers' notes be included, and anything else that may have slipped my mind as far as specific reference to any letters, any comments publically, however they may have been sent or however they were received by the Navy to be considered in this. My biggest concern, since I've made comments in the past and I've now included them by reference, is a new issue which has come up. And I do not believe that anyone really has addressed it. I asked several people, including I believe his name was Brian, either Bill or Brian over here at one of the posters. And they don't give their last names for some reason, so it makes it kind of hard to know who you spoke to. But specifically my question was about plastics and nanoplastics getting into the animals. There's something called "nerdles." I'm not sure how to spell it, I'm going to guess n-e-r-d-l-e-s. "Nerdles." And they are plastic balls or shapes that are pre-made to melt into various colors or various types of plastics. So it's like the embryo or the seed of plastics. And they then melt them to make larger plastics. I assume they're probably used in things like 3D printing. Anyway, my point with this is I'm very concerned about sonar more rapidly breaking down the plastics into smaller particles and causing further and more rapid damage to the fish, the mollusks, the sea mammals, the whales, dolphins and cetaceans and every creature in the ocean that has been adversely affected by the plastics, as we're just now finding out. And I believe the reason nobody had any information on it is apparently the Navy has done no research on it because it's cutting edge science. They're just now finding out about these nanoplastics getting into these creatures. So the bottom line on the question is does that sonar cause further and more rapid damage because it may be breaking down plastics quicker than it would break down otherwise, due to the vibrations that the sonar runs through the water. And I think it's important for that to be researched and experiments done to see if that's the case. And my preference is the no war games alternative, not to do this project. That we've done it enough. I think we know pretty much how to do it. And there's other ways now, virtual training, virtual reality, for the men. They don't really actually necessarily need to be blowing stuff up and sending sonar that's more intense than</p>	

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	regular sonar, the war level sonar that's a weapon on the sonar, into the sea unnecessarily. I also want to invoke, since it's Pete Seeger's birthday, I'm going to sing one verse. I know you can't put musical notes. (Singing) Where have all the dolphins gone? Long time passing. Where have all of the whales gone? A long time ago. Where have all the whales and dolphins gone? Gone to Navy sonar every one. When will they ever learn? Will they never learn? (End of singing.) So, bless you Pete Seeger, and bless you Rosalind Peterson. So I'm going to leave it there, because I've referred to everything else by record, and it's getting late and I've got people waiting for me. So thank you so much.	
Wrobel-1	Aircraft should not be allowed to fly over the Olympic Peninsula creating negative noise impacts on pets and wildlife, not to mention us humans.	<p>The Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), a portion of which overlies the Olympic National Park was designated for precisely the type of training that the Navy, as well as other U.S. military forces have conducted since the MOA's designation in 1977. Prior to the MOA's designation, military aircraft have trained over and off the Olympic Peninsula since World War II.</p> <p>The Navy has considered other locations (see the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, Section 2.4.1.1, Alternative Training and Testing Locations); however, the Navy needs access to training complexes within proximity to where the aircraft are based as stated in Section 2.5.1.1 (Alternative Locations) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Olympic MOA is necessary for Naval training and testing activities due to its proximity to multiple testing and training range complexes, homeports of Navy Region Northwest commands, shore-based facilities and infrastructure that maximize the training realism and testing effectiveness.</p>
Wyatt-1	<p>As a Seattle citizen and sailor in the Puget's Sound, I ask that the Navy halt all sonar and explosive practice or testing in the Puget Sound. These waters have a strong history for the native tribes of the area and remain crucial to the Pacific North West economy and culture. Simulations can be just as beneficial without causing harm to the ecosystem.</p> <p>I recognize this how things have been done, but with our increasing knowledge of harmful these practices are I ask you to discontinue those tests that can be completed through simulation (and move others to safer areas, such as Lake Washington which has less bio diversity to risk.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.5.1 (Active Sonar) from the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
Wyner-1	Thank you for taking the time to review my comments and to answer my questions. See Attached PDF letter for comments and questions.	No PDF letter or other documents were attached.
Wyner-2	Dear NWTTS Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager: I support the position of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council and its member Tribes regarding the cultural and environmental protections that are needed for the Navy's proposed training and testing activities in the Northwest Training Range Complex. As a concerned member of the public, I ask that the Navy cooperate with the Tribes in meaningful ways to help ensure that military training and testing do not harm marine life and areas of cultural concern to the Tribes. Special measures should be taken to address the concerns of the Tribes, because they are Sovereign Nations and not merely members of the public. The Navy's obligation to consult with sovereign Tribal Nations under federal law provides a framework for the Tribal-Navy consultation being facilitated by the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council. I request that the Navy continue to fulfill its obligation for meaningful government-to- government Tribal consultation, and that it work toward substantively addressing Tribal concerns about the Navy's Training and Testing activities. The use of sonar in training and testing exercises is known to seriously damage the hearing and alter the behavior of marine mammals when they are in the vicinity of such activities. The impacts of sonar and other Navy training and testing activities on the marine environment should not be measured solely according to whether entire populations of marine species are harmed. Harm to smaller areas and groups should also be considered. The goal of mitigation of harm to marine plant and animal species should be to reduce the effect of training and testing to the lowest humanly possible impact. I call on the Navy to honor the reasonable request of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council's member Tribes that testing and training activities be conducted outside of marine waters offshore from California. I strongly urge the Navy to collaborate with the member Tribes of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council in developing robust monitoring and mitigation measures to address impacts of the Navy's training and testing activities that are planned for the Northwest Training Range Complex. It is also hoped that the letters of concern are read by, and evaluated by, government officials, who are not just the paid vendors that present the Navy public hearing meetings. The vendors only have \$\$\$ and profit in mind, not necessarily the public concern for environmental cultural	<p>The Navy will continue to consult with the Tribes. Through Government-to-Government consultations, the Navy will consider additional tribal and traditional knowledge provided, maintaining respect for cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.</p> <p>As stated in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the term "traditional resources" is used to encompass protected tribal resources.</p> <p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	protections, in addition to national safety. Thank you for your consideration.	
Wyner-3	I have concerns about the sound from the testing affecting the marine life. Someone mentioned a study that sound can travel 12,000 miles. I'm not sure if that is correct, but any distance up to that amount or short of that amount would surpass the 12 miles that is allowed by the Native Americans off the coast. Any take could be unsafe or injurious to the marine life. I understand that there can be up to 500,000 takes. Though the definition of a take can range from a simple course of misdirection, as well as terminating the life of a marine species; there is some latitude on that. But even a whale going off course because of the sound can disrupt its life, be injurious, or fatal for that whale if it gets lost. That's the sound. In terms of military waste or debris left over from the exercise itself, I understand there will be lots of debris. Military debris. Weapon shells, explosions, and I'm not sure if they're going to have actual targets, but I understand there will be tons of it. Some of it will be cleaned up, but from asking questions, there is no plan to clean it up, to clean up what is left. And I think that's a disservice to our country, the marine life, and our ocean. There will be more military pollution that will be left there until perpetuity unless there's a plan. What is the plan to clean it up? And I don't think there is one. I think there should be one.	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.</p> <p>Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.</p>
Wyner-4	Commenting about the meeting, the meeting was very disappointing, because the speakers could not be heard. I don't know if that was intentional, or just a consequence of the people here trying to find out more information about the weapons testing that will be off our coast. The audience could not hear the questions, the audience could not hear the answers. The format did not really engage or expect engagement from the audience. The way it was set up was almost intentionally not to answer public comments, except for our wonderful court reporter to take our information. I'm concerned that our court reporter is the only person that's really listening. So thank you for being here and thank you for taking notes. I'm wondering if there will be a way to have the information, the questions and the information that the court reporter is reporting on, be made public and available to the people who attended today, and what are those venues. I have another concern about the meeting. Some of the information was confusing. Some of the presenters had no idea that we're near an earthquake zone. The San Andreas fault is three miles off our coast, and some of the presenters were unaware of that. And it seems like that could be a factor if the military is setting off explosions near there, near the	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. The format allowed for ample opportunity for valuable exchange of information between the public and Navy subject matter experts. The subject matter experts were available and answered questions throughout the entire meeting. The meetings also provided opportunity for individuals to comment in writing or orally privately to a stenographer. The Navy has received feedback from meeting attendees that the open-house format is more conducive to promoting public understanding and constructive dialogue. Open house meetings allow a greater number of individuals to directly engage and interact with Navy team members and ask questions about the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, as well as provide comments on the document.

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>fault zone. It seems like that would not be a good idea. There were also comments that our area is similar to the South Korean or North Korean coast, that's one reason it has been selected here, and some of the vendors had different opinions or different information than the other vendors, even when asked the same question. There did not seem to be continuity in the answers to some of the questions. That would have been helpful, if there was continuity or some collaboration between the presenters at the different booths. This format of the separate booths did not seem to address the issues that people wanted to have answered. It would have been nice if there was a meeting where audience can ask questions, we could get direct answers, and have them verified at the time, and graciously recorded by our court reporter. Thank you.</p>	
<b>X</b>		
Xelette-1	Stop it	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>
Xuan-1	<p>To the Navy,</p> <p>We thank you with all our hearts for protecting the people but it's time you protect those without a voice. These beautiful animals do not deserve to suffer because of our actions. We may believe sonar testing is beneficial to us but the orcas, whales, dolphins, turtles are suffering. Please stop sonar testing and start protecting the wildlife which needs our protection the most.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>
<b>Y</b>		
Yanish-1	<p>I hear and some times see our jets flying over Forks almost every day. I am proud to see our pilots getting the training they need to be the best in the world. If this causes a little discomfort for a few people - so be it. They would be a lot more uncomfortable speaking Russian or Chinese.</p> <p>You are doing a great job.</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p>
Yearsley-1	<p>We need to not hurt these southern orcas more then the dangers they already face every day. Please do not test in their home</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Yellowwolf-1	Please sustain from sonar testing. It has been scientifically proven that this harms sea life. Our orcas are already under threat of extinction from starvation, they cannot and should not have to battle this too. Intense and repeated exposure to certain frequencies of the sonar will affect animals' ability to hear in those ranges and this is so dangerous to those that hunt by sonar. It is our responsibility to protect our animals. We owe them that. Thank you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ying-1	Please stop the harmful sonar emitted from navy ships! This is detrimental to ocean wildlife, leading to an inhospitable environment and hear loss. We need orcas and other marine life to thrive in order to sustain our ecosystem.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Yoneda-1	I am writing today to voice my concerns regarding the naval testing off the coast of Northern California, specifically my home town of Mendocino. There are many reasons that your proposed plan create cause for concern and I have several questions about how you plan to address these concerns. I will focus on my two main concerns in this comment. First, our local economy relies on the beauty and health of our oceans. In a letter addressed to you on April 23, 2019 our county Board of Supervisors stated: "The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors believes that sonar and	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.  The potential impacts to the economy are discussed in Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources). The impacts of the training and testing activities



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>explosive testing off the Mendocino Coast is detrimental to the fauna of the oceanic ecosystem on which we rely. This fragile ecosystem supports migrating whales and a wide variety of sea life and is a key economic source for our county and must not be damaged in any way.</p> <p>How do you plan to address the economic impact your testing will have on our community? Will there be baseline testing of the strength of our current economy and how it might be affected by both noise and physical pollution? Will you be able to ensure that we will not be economically impacted by your testing? If so, how? If not, why?</p> <p>Second, NOAA has recently declared a Wildlife Emergency in response to the alarming number of Gray Whales that have washed up along the west coast this migratory season. There have been at least seventy Gray Whales have washed ashore this season with the actual estimate of deaths closer to 700. Are you aware of these numbers and this declared emergency? How will you respond? Will you conduct further research on your environmental impact taking into consideration this recent surge in marine deaths? If so, how and when? If not, why?</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my concerns,</p>	<p>in NWTT on tourism are discussed in Section 3.12.2.3 (Tourism and Recreation). No negative effects to tourism activities in the Study Area are expected from proposed training and testing activities. Therefore, loss of revenue or employment associated with tourism is not expected to occur. The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p>
Yopp-1	Save our oceans and those that live in it.	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Young-1	I understand that we need these tests for National Security. After reading the reasons they need to be done in the Pacific North West though i'm a bit ashamed of us as a whole that we don't know by now to do better by the environment and ALL the inhabitants. It is more cost effective for fuel and	<p>All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	all the reasons you stated, but there are animals that live there. Smart, sentient animals that have a right to live as much as we do. Please find another way besides sonar to find things. There is a group of killer whales that live where you want to test. I love these whales as do many people. They are becoming extinct right before our eyes because we've ruined their environment, and without any thought as to how humans will live once the ecosystems don't work any longer. We allow commercial fishing that takes their food, and because of this, they are starving to death. I would never have thought this could happen in my country, but here we are. On top of that Canada has approved the pipeline expansion, that is more noise, tanker traffic and pollution to their home. Now ;you want to add military testing to the mix. The mix that they didn't make, and have no control over, yet it's killing them. Please, find another way, and if you can not, please do the testing somewhere else for a while so IF they can survive, at least their population will be healthier. It is the equivalent of having gone through a hurricane, and before you can regroup there is no food at the stores any longer, and the air is no longer breathable. That isn't exaggeration. This is what they are trying their hardest to survive through. Please don't make it any harder than it already is. This isn't even mentioning the population of gray whales washing ashore from starvation. Thank you.	to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Youngberg-1	Hello, I am an avid hiker of the Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest complex. I frequently hear the noise pollution from Growler planes while hiking, backpacking and trail running in the greater Olympic park complex. I also have seen planes flying lower than regulation allows and it has caused my dogs to spoke and run away. I would like the Navy to cease flying of growler planes in the area. I would also am worried what the noise and visual impact does to the local fauna in the area. There are many sensitive species in the area and I am sure they must be impacted.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.
Youngstrom-1	Thank you for your time, Sadie Youngstrom PO Box 2913 Friday Harbor, WA 98250 Marine Biologist/Observer/Captain	Please see responses below.
Youngstrom-2	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your revised supplemental draft. The document is quite extensive and I am pleased to see so much relevant literature cited.  I'd like to include some of the research I found regarding the effects of sonar in particular and underwater noise to marine mammals.  Nature journal filed a Freedom of Information Acts (FOIA) request for a	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids,

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>Navy report on the impacts of Sonar on whales. "Sonar does affect whales, military report confirms. Animals stopped vocalizing and foraging for food during marine exercises." by Daniel Cressey.</p> <p>Military-sponsored tests now suggest that low levels of sonar, which to not cause direct damage to whales, could still harm by triggering behavioral changes. Changes include decreased or completely ceases vocalizing and foraging for food in the area around active sonar transmissions. The report notes, "Since these animals feed at depth, this could have the effect of preventing a whale (beaked whale specifically) from feeding over the course of the trial and could lead to second or third order effects on the animal and population as a whole." The report also references a second military document from 2005, which explains that these second-and third-order effects could include starvation and then death, depending on the severity of the sonar's initial effect on the whales.(Nature, 2008 <a href="http://ocr.org/ocr/wp-content/uploads/nature_Navy_confirms_neg_effects_of_sonar.pdf">http://ocr.org/ocr/wp-content/uploads/nature_Navy_confirms_neg_effects_of_sonar.pdf</a>)</p> <p>In another study, Ian Boyd, an expert on marine mammals at St Andrews University, UK, worked with Tyack on the response study. He says that it is possible to mitigate the effects of sonar by using forms that sound less like predators, for example, or simply by moving military exercises away from whales.</p> <p>"We need to start doing some of these sorts of things," he says. "But we need to do it within the context of an experimental set-up where we can genuinely test the extent to which there is disturbance to these animals, and potentially test new types of sonar signals, because they may only be sensitive to certain types of signal." (<a href="https://www.serdp-estcp.org/News-and-Events/Blog/Impacts-of-Sonar-on-Marine-Mammals">https://www.serdp-estcp.org/News-and-Events/Blog/Impacts-of-Sonar-on-Marine-Mammals</a>).</p> <p>Dr. Andrew Read from Duke University Marine Lab (RC-2154, Odontocete Cetaceans: Quantifying Behavioral Ecology and Response to Predators Using a Multi-Species Approach) used playback experiments to facilitate identification of some of the key contextual factors of the behavioral responses to a threatening sound in two species of odontocetes. The biphonic calls share several characteristics with mid-frequency active sonars (MFAS). The results from the study infer that odontocetes perceive the sounds of MFAS and the sounds of predators in a similar manner, or even if they merely respond to the two sounds types the same way, we can infer much about the nature and likely magnitude of the potential risks of MFAS by understanding the anti-predator response of each species. An important conclusion resulting from this study is that there is considerable</p>	<p>minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>merit from pursuing this line of reasoning: that is, constructing a formal conceptual model of the response of odontocetes to potential threats and using interacting factors such as habitat, social structure, and body size as predictors of response. A matrix of these predictive factors can be used to predict the behavioral response of odontocetes to any threat, including MFAS, at least in a coarse manner.</p> <p>Another study, "Behavioral Ecology of Cetaceans: The Relationship of Body Condition with Behavior and Reproductive Status (RC-2337) finds Long-term consequences of disturbance are particularly difficult to quantify. Noise may reduce foraging rates and thereby body condition, which is a good predictor of offspring survival and reproductive success. Body condition influences how animals trade-off foraging and anti-predator behaviors, and it modulates responses to human disturbance. Thus, behavioral ecology studies of how body condition relates to the risk and consequences of acoustic disturbance in cetaceans should be a high priority.</p>	
Youngstrom-3	<p>"Autonomous Real-Time Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Baleen Whales for Mitigating Interactions with Naval Activities Dr. Cara Hotchkin   NAVFAC Atlantic RC-201446</p> <p>The Navy regularly conducts studies of marine mammal distribution and occurrence in association with training exercises to better monitor potential interactions between marine mammals and naval activities. Methods used for these studies include visual surveys and acoustic monitoring via passive acoustic recorders; however, these methods have significant drawbacks. Visual surveys from ships and airplanes are expensive, and they cannot be conducted during nighttime or periods of high winds, rough seas, or poor visibility. Although passive acoustic recorders have large detection ranges and can be used to persistently detect vocalizing marine mammals regardless of weather conditions, recordings can be accessed only after recovery of the recording instrument. In addition, acoustic analysis by a trained person is time consuming and expensive.</p> <p>Recent advances in low-power digital signal processors, detection algorithms, and satellite communications have made near real-time (within hours of sound detection) audio processing, sound detection, classification, and reporting from autonomous platforms feasible. This project will demonstrate a passive acoustic detection and classification hardware/software system that is capable of detecting the calls of four</p>	<p>Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.</p> <p>The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	species of endangered baleen whales—fin ( <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> ), humpback ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ), sei ( <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> ), and right ( <i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> )—from three different autonomous platforms (Slocum gliders, wave gliders, moored buoys). In particular, the project seeks to: (1) demonstrate year-round, large-scale near real-time acoustic surveillance from these autonomous platforms; (2) validate near real-time acoustic detections using audio recorded in situ and airplane-, ship-, and land-based visual observations; and (3) develop best practices for integrating near real-time acoustic detections from autonomous platforms into persistent visual monitoring programs such as the current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Navy marine mammal aerial survey programs off the U.S. east coast.	
Youngstrom-4	<p>According to Falcone et al. 2017 behavioral changes (foraging disruption and displacement from foraging habitats) have potential long-term consequences if repeated exposures result in a reduction in individual energy stores [17,18]. Responses that increased with proximity were evident up to 100 km away in this large dataset that included sizeable samples of behavior from 16 whales during periods both with and without MFAS use, despite the relative coarseness of both the behavioral and MFAS data used in this analysis.</p> <p>In at least some specific cases where the IDDI was instead reduced during MFAS use, there is evidence that the whale did not actually resume foraging on its next deep dive, and thus the foraging disruption effect may be even stronger than these results suggest.</p> <p>This last study brings up the topic of range. In the supplemental draft, mitigation area was determined on the potentially effected animal. I was unable to find any mitigation that specified "shutdown" of operations when marine mammals were visible from observers on the ship or other vessels, reports from aircraft, buoys (hydrophones) or based on migration patterns.</p> <p>1) Research is finding a change of behavior is whales at short and long ranges, how is one to accurately account for an incidental take?</p> <p>2) How is mitigation area taken into consideration when multiple animals of same or different species are present?</p> <p>3) Short term studies are finding real time behavioral changes, very little is know on cumulative effects. In order to protect endangered/species-at-risk and threatened species, should military testing/exercises be halted in critical habitats until evidence is found that supports absolutely no change in behavior?</p> <p>In the recent publication by Castellote et al., 2019, anthropogenic noise has</p>	<p>The article cited in the comment (Falcone, 2017) was not available at the time the behavioral response functions were developed. The Navy will incorporate these findings into the Navy's future behavioral response functions as appropriate. However, the Navy's current beaked whale BRF covers the responses observed in the new article since the beaked whale risk function is more sensitive than the other risk functions at lower received levels. Thus far, no new information has been published or otherwise conveyed that would fundamentally change the assessment of impacts or conclusions of this Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.</p> <p>The Navy included mitigation for active sonar, including dipping sonar, in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Within 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Navy will not conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Helicopter, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Ship, or Submarine training activities. These activities involve the use of MF4 and MF5.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	<p>been identified as a major threat for the recovery of the endangered Cook Inlet beluga, <i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>.</p> <p>Mitigation is mainly focused on close-range injury effects defined as the onset of permanent threshold shift (PTS) and temporary threshold shifts (TTS) in marine mammal hearing, following the recently updated NOAA technical guidance report (NMFS, 2018). Although behavioral harassment is also considered as part of the mitigation, a small number of takes is often allowed because of the difficulties in monitoring the extensive areas encompassed to level B harassment threshold (120 dB re 1 <math>\mu</math>Pa for non-impulsive and 160 dB for impulsive sources, NOAA, 1995). Five previous acoustic studies collected noise data and suggested that the background noise in upper Cook Inlet may often exceed 120 dB re 1 <math>\mu</math>Pa (Heenehan, 2009; Blackwell and Greene3; URS4; Širovic; and Kendall5, HDR6). These results led the NMFS to define an exception for upper Cook Inlet of 125 dBrms for behavioral harassment (level B take) by non-impulsive noise instead of the standard 120 dBrms limit (NMFS7).</p> <p>The acoustic characteristics of most of the detected noise events in this study have the potential to mask beluga hearing at certain frequencies and also their communication, and some exceed the current NOAA behavioral harassment thresholds on a daily basis.</p> <p>The background noise level to be considered for behavioral responses of belugas in Cook Inlet should correspond to the quiet undisturbed natural conditions, rather than conditions when other anthropogenic activities are altering the background noise levels (even if these are common).</p> <p>4) This brings into focus, the overall levels in the study area and if military testing would exceed marine mammals PTS and TTS and allowable behavioral harassment thresholds?</p>	
Youngstrom-5	<p>5) Does the draft provide contact information and educational outreach to the public to report marine mammal sightings when know military exercises are underway?</p> <p>6) What kind of public outreach is provided in advance to scheduled military exercises?</p>	Due to national security concerns, the Navy does not typically provide advance notice of training or testing activities.
Youngstrom-6	7) What are the consequences or accountability the Navy will be responsible for if known harm or exceeding allowable takes to marine mammals or documented during training exercises?	The Navy is subject to the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and coordinates with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if the Navy anticipates it would exceed allowable takes.
Youngstrom-7	<p>8) Lastly the Southern Resident killer whale population is 76 currently but is reported as 77.</p> <p>Please reach out with any questions/clarification, updates you may have.</p>	There are several sources of abundance numbers for marine mammal species. For consistency, the Navy uses abundance numbers of Southern Resident killer whales (as well as other marine mammal species) provided by NMFS in

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		the most recent Stock Assessment Report. The Navy tracks this species closely and will continue to use the most recent available data.
Youngstrom-8	<p>Using studies conducted as far back as 1984 as source material for your EIS/OEIS draft is wholly unacceptable. So far this year, 70 gray whales washed ashore on the west coast, five times the average rate. NOAA has declared a wildlife emergency. The SEIS at 3.4.282 states that "military expended materials will sink to the ocean floor". At 3.4.302 the SEIS states that "for the most part," this material will be ingested by bottom feeders, Gray whales are bottom feeders. The SEIS needs to take into account the already stressed gray whale population. Scientific studies have shown that explosives and SONAR are detrimental to marine animals. For whales and dolphins, listening is the way they see and communicate and is integral to their survival. Under these circumstances, will the Navy provide updated studies in the OEIS reflecting the current crisis? Until NOAA's study on the die-off on the Gray Whales is complete, shouldn't any disruption of the ocean by sonar and explosive activity be halted?</p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gray-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/gray-whales-stranded-west-coast-1.5119056</a></p> <p><a href="https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533">https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2018.2533</a></p> <p>The economic considerations are well-stated in the letter of opposition to sonar testing off the coast of Mendocino County by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in their letter to you dated April 21, 2019. To paraphrase: sonar and explosive testing off the Mendocino coast is detrimental to the fragile oceanic ecosystem on which we rely. The wide variety of sea life is a key economic source for our county and must not be damaged in any way.</p> <p>Will you please slow down this process to allow enough time for current scientific data to be added to your SEIS?</p> <p>Thank you for your serious consideration.</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p> <p>The Navy uses the most current marine mammal population data available from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The 2008 and 2010 references cited in the comment were not used by the Navy to determine current populations.</p> <p>The Navy is aware of the recent gray whale deaths. In the 2019 NOAA Report which officially declared the Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, full or partial necropsy examinations were conducted on a subset of the whales. Preliminary findings in several of the whales have shown evidence of emaciation. These findings are not consistent across all of the whales examined, so more research is needed. With this in mind, there are no indications that any of the deaths are caused/related to naval activities.</p>
Yount-1	<p>Navy sonar testing is an awful idea. This is critical habitat for the critically endangered Southern Resident killer whales. L112 Sooke was killed by Navy sonar, it was so impactful that her ears and her brain hemorrhaged. So, no! This should NOT happen!!</p>	<p>The Navy is aware that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk.</p> <p>The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Yseth-1	Please do not release any environmental “stressors,” including heavy metals and explosives, into the coastal waters of the U.S. Pacific Northwest. With the local wildlife populations struggling, including the local orca pods, I believe this will negatively affect them. These metals will undoubtedly have a negative impact on the marine ecosystem, and therefore also the fishing industry.	Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for the analysis of impacts to water quality from the Navy's proposed activities.  Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Yuen-1	7) What are the consequences or accountability the Navy will be responsible for if known harm or exceeding allowable takes to marine mammals or documented during training exercises?	The Navy is subject to the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and coordinates with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if the Navy anticipates it would exceed allowable takes.
<b>Z</b>		
Zablocki-1	Please take into consideration that the sonar testing is greatly harming the orcas (and other marine life as well). Orcas are already a species that are suffering greatly and it would mean a lot to conservation efforts if the sonar testing ended or was conducted in a better manner. Thank you.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Zachariadou-1	Please end the sonar testing, the marine animals of our beautiful area will not be able to handle it. Plenty of other places to do this stuff! The environment and wildlife should be top priority.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental



**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Zadorozny-1	<p>I am extremely concerned upon reading how again humans believe they have the right to destroy the world below the surface of the seas. 50 to 80% of all life on earth is below the surface of the oceans. Only 10% of that has been explored by humans and holds many secrets to our existence and further conservation is needed to preserve the deep, dark sea, and all the life it contains.</p> <p>I have read reports from marine biologist Alexandra Morton about the Southern Resident Killer Whales and Transient Killer Whales. Their feeding grounds in the Broughton Archipelago were abandoned when Fish Farms in the area started using sonar to repel them and all other marine life including dolphins.</p> <p>She studied whales for 25 years, Living an intimate co-existence with them. Reading her studies were mind altering for me. Maybe you are able to widen your perspective as well with more research before doing something that will change the lives of an endangered species (SRKW) plus countless numbers of sentient beings in our Salish Sea.</p> <p>Echolocation and communication between whales is interrupted when sonar is in their waters, to cause devastating effects.</p> <p>A very enlightening excerpt from Alexandra Morton's book, Listening to Whales: " When they fish they split up one taking each shoreline as they call back and forth. Each call might show fish, transients and islands in a radarlike sweep. The oil filled antennae that are their lower jaws, carry acoustic vibrations deep into direct contact with their inner ears. There, translated into electrical pulses, the vibrations flash up to the auditory site of the brain on a rich weave of nerves. From there the signal is boosted on a superhighway to the neocortex-the centre for higher thought. That's where the holes in each sound could be read like braille to reveal a school of Salmon.</p> <p>Because cetaceans are one of only three types of mammals that can mimic a sound (bats and humans are the other two), a whale might broadcast a travel-worn signal with enough fidelity to show a third whale where the mother load of fish can be found. The possibilities multiply exponentially when you consider projection of three dimensional images between whales."</p> <p>We are stewards of this planet, we are here not to destroy but to live in</p>	<p>The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.</p>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	co-existence with the many life forms in the intricate web of life. When we destroy keystone species like Salmon, Whales and our forests then disintegrate. We are all connected and dependant on each other. Please use your Please, please, please, use the neocortex portion of your brain and rethink what you will later regret doing. Think about the big picture. We cannot survive without whales, forests, air and our precious, finite water supply on this planet. The planet can and will survive without us. We want to make changes now to save what is left for future generations.	
Zahrobky-1	Please do your training exercises out of the migratory pathways of the gray whales. They should be protected from possible harm. Respectfully submitted.	The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Zamora-1	It is vital that we protect whales and dolphins from sonic distress and injury through Navy testing. They are under too many pressures and sonic testing does very little to aid our defense. Please stop immediately.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Zarconi-1	I feel this is so wrong to be doing and so harmful to the animals.	Thank you for your participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Your comment is part of the official project record.  The Navy takes its environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously while preparing for its mission. As a steward of the environment, the Navy avoids, minimizes, or mitigates potential effects on the environment from its activities. To learn more about marine species, sonar, and sound in the water, and the Navy's ocean stewardship programs, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Navy's Marine Species Monitoring webpage at: <a href="http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/">www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/</a></li></ul>

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Discovery of Sound in the Sea website at: <a href="http://www.dosits.org">www.dosits.org</a></li> <li>• The Living Marine Resources Program at: <a href="https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr">https://www.navfac.navy.mil/lmr</a></li> <li>• The Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology programs at: <a href="https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology">https://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-32/all-programs/marine-mammals-biology</a></li> <li>• The Navy's project website at: <a href="http://www.NWTTEIS.com">www.NWTTEIS.com</a></li> </ul>
Zeiner-1	Please stop the sonar blasts! These creatures are already struggling to survive. Do the right thing, please!	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Zerke-1	I am completely AGAINST underwater sonar testing. Many marine mammals use sound extensively to navigate and to find food sources, and by engaging in underwater sonar testing, the navy is threatening the survival not just of one species, but of an entire ECOSYSTEM. This is absolutely outrageous. The Pacific Northwest ecosystem is what thousands of people depend on to make their living and by threatening this ecosystem, the navy is also threatening the livelihood of countless people. If humans can figure out how to put people on the moon and perform heart transplants, I'm pretty sure the navy can figure out how to do what it needs to do without destroying an entire ecosystem and an entire sea-based economy. People and animals should not be threatened because the navy does not want to be inconvenienced. The Navy's job is to protect from harm, not to be the cause of harm.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Ziemer-1	We all need to be concerned about supporting our marine and wildlife environment. I am asking the DOD to put that need as the priority in choosing which areas to fly training missions st. There are many less sensitive areas in our country to do this training where there is less negative impact on people and the environment.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Zillioux-1	Whales are dying quickly, not just the southern residents. We need them for the health of the planet. They serve a huge role in pulling carbon out of the atmosphere among other things. And nobody wants to nor is able to	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study

**Table H-6: Responses to Comments from Individual Members of the Public (continued)**

<i>Commenter</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Navy Response</i>
	live on a dead planet. The sonar situation is simply unacceptable. We have greater needs than whatever the sonar is supposed to accomplish. It's an inferior priority. Thank you.	Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Živanović-1	I don't really know what to say about this besides that it's obviously bad harming animals like this especially when you know that you're doing it. I really think that these testings should stop as soon as posible.	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Zucker-1	We wish that this could be more "substantive", but I am not among naval personnel, scientists, or engineers. I am a private citizen writing on behalf of my family, including 7 voting, tax-paying adults, all of whom have grave concerns about the priorities of naval research. To wit: We oppose, and hope that you will respect, the other vulnerable creatures with whom we share territory. We are dismayed and worried for the health of cetaceans who must co-exist with us and our defense systems' needs. We read too often of dwindling Orca populations in our part of the world, plus numerous beachings of whales and dolphins; plus whales gored by ships as they go about their "business" (some of it commercial). Yes, we believe that your tests and exercises bear much responsibility for devastation at sea. We hope that national security and cetacean survival can both be considered when your decisions are made, now and in future. Thank you	All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.
Zure-1	Our West Coast Marine Life is in severe decline. Sonar testing is clearly destructive beyond measure and has no place in our oceans at all, much less in the Pacific Northwest. It is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to SUPPORT the recovery of our dying marine life, particularly whales and dolphins, no add to their demise. Extinction is not an option and the people don't want this.	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area. Based on the best available science summarized in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.4 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities Since 2015), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action on marine species.

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## Appendix I: Agency Correspondence



# Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

## Northwest Training and Testing

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## List of Figures

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## **Appendix I      Agency Correspondence**

Appendix I contains correspondence sent between the Navy and government agencies with respect to Notice of Intent and Notice of Availability notifications, cooperating agency status, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act Consultation, Government-to-Government Consultations, Coastal Zone Management Act, Essential Fish Habitat Assessment, and the National Historic Preservation Act Compliance.

I.1 Notice of Intent/Availability Notification Letters

I.1.1 Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental EIS/OEIS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
260 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N465/0952  
August 21, 2017

Dear Sir or Madam:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing a supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities conducted within the NWTT EIS/OEIS Study Area (hereafter referred to as the "Study Area"). Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation (hereafter referred to as "training and testing"). The Navy is requesting your comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues and viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The Navy previously completed an EIS/OEIS in 2015, for which a Record of Decision was signed in October 2016, for at-sea training and testing activities occurring within the Study Area. The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS is being prepared to support ongoing and future activities conducted at sea within the Study Area beyond 2020. Proposed training and testing activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and are representative of activities the Navy has been conducting in the Study Area for decades.

The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will include an analysis of training and testing activities using new information available after the release of the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. As part of this process, the Navy will seek the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act to support ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities within the Study Area beyond 2020.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS (Enclosure 1). The Study Area is comprised of established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the northeastern Pacific Ocean, including areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes air and water space within and outside Washington state waters, air and water space outside state waters of Oregon and Northern California, and Navy pierside locations where sonar maintenance and testing occur. In the supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy will only analyze those training and testing activities conducted at sea within the Study Area.

5090  
Ser N465/0952  
August 21, 2017

The Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. Activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the Navy can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, consistent with Congressional direction in section 5062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Conduct at-sea training and testing activities at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020; and
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

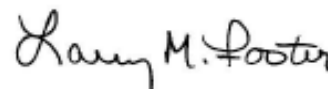
Public comments will be accepted during the 30-day scoping period beginning August 22, 2017 and extending through September 21, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by **September 21, 2017** for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com), or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: NWTTEIS Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
3730 North Charles Porter Avenue, Building 385  
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

For more information, please visit the project website at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com) or contact Ms. Jackie Queen, NWTTEIS Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, at 360-257-3852, or email [jackie.queen@navy.mil](mailto:jackie.queen@navy.mil).

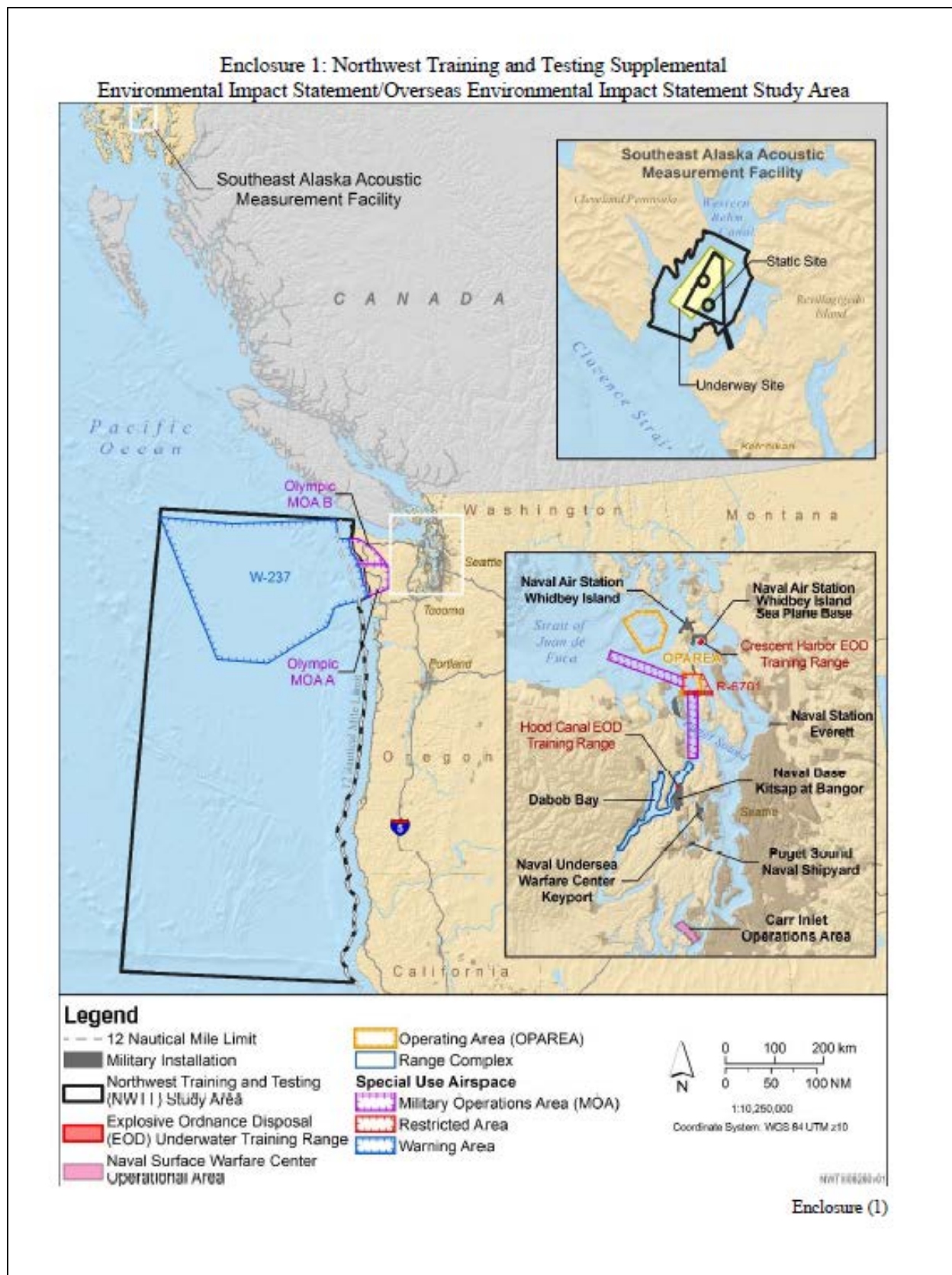
Please help the Navy inform the community about the intent to prepare the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for at-sea training and testing in the Pacific Northwest by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

Sincerely,



L. M. FOSTER  
By direction

Enclosure: 1. Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact  
Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area





I.1.2 Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N465/0352  
March 22, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE NORTHWEST TRAINING AND  
TESTING DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND  
PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) has prepared a draft supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with military readiness activities within the NWT Study Area, referred to as the "Study Area." Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities, referred to as "training and testing." The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

In October 2015, the Navy completed an EIS/OEIS for training and testing activities occurring within the Study Area from 2015 through 2020, for which a Record of Decision was signed in October 2016. The supplement to the 2015 NWT Final EIS/OEIS supports proposed ongoing and future activities conducted at sea and in associated airspace within the Study Area beyond 2020. Proposed activities are similar to those conducted in the Study Area for decades and analyzed in the 2015 document.

In the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated new, relevant information, such as more recent marine mammal density data and new scientific information, and updated the environmental analyses as appropriate. The Navy prepared the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS to support the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 analysis, and is comprised of established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the northeastern Pacific Ocean, including areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes air and water space within and outside Washington state waters and established special use airspace, Navy pierside and harbor locations within Washington state waters, and air and water space outside the state waters of Oregon and Northern California (Enclosure 1).

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Ser N465/0352  
March 22, 2019

The Navy's Proposed Action includes the continued use of active sound navigation and ranging, known as sonar, and explosives while employing marine species mitigation measures. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities to ensure the Navy can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, consistent with Congressional direction in section 8062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Conduct training and testing activities, at sea and in associated airspace, at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020.
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

The Navy will hold eight open house public meetings to provide information, answer questions, and give the public an opportunity to comment on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The public may arrive at any time between 5 and 8 p.m., as there will not be a presentation or public oral comment session. A stenographer will be available for the public to facilitate one-on-one oral comments; written comments can be submitted at any time during the meetings.

Concurrent with the National Environmental Policy Act public involvement process, the Navy is identifying additional consulting parties to participate in the Section 106 process under the National Historic Preservation Act regarding potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on historic properties. Historic properties include districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. During each of the public meetings, an information station will be available where individuals can learn more about the Section 106 process.

Open house public meetings will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., at the following locations:

**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019  
**Location:** Hampton Inn Seattle/Everett Downtown Salish Room  
2931 W. Marine View Drive  
Everett, WA

**Date:** Thursday, April 25, 2019  
**Location:** Ridgetop Middle School Cafeteria  
10600 Hillsboro Drive NW  
Silverdale, WA

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March 22, 2019

**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019

**Location:** Naval Elks Lodge #353  
131 E. First St.  
Port Angeles, WA

**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019

**Location:** Astoria High School Student Commons  
1001 W. Marine Drive  
Astoria, OR

**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019

**Location:** Newport Performing Arts Center Lobby  
777 W. Olive Street  
Newport, OR

**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019

**Location:** Red Lion Hotel Eureka Ballroom  
1929 Fourth Street  
Eureka, CA

**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019

**Location:** Dana Grey Elementary School Multipurpose Room  
1197 Chestnut Street  
Fort Bragg, CA

**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019

**Location:** Ted Ferry Civic Center Naha and Alava Bays  
888 Venetia Avenue  
Ketchikan, AK

To review the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and for additional project information, including details on the key differences between the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and the 2019 Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, please visit the project website at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com).

The Navy will accept comments throughout the public comment period from March 29, 2019 to May 28, 2019. All comments must be postmarked or received online by **May 28, 2019** for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. All comments submitted during the comment period will become part of the public record, and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Comments may be submitted online at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com), at the open house public meetings, or by mail to:

5090  
Ser N465/0352  
March 22, 2019

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
3730 N. Charles Porter Avenue  
Building 385  
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

If you would like additional information, please contact Ms. Jackie Queen, NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, at [projectmanager@nwtteis.com](mailto:projectmanager@nwtteis.com).

Please help the Navy inform the community about the availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and public meetings by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

Sincerely,

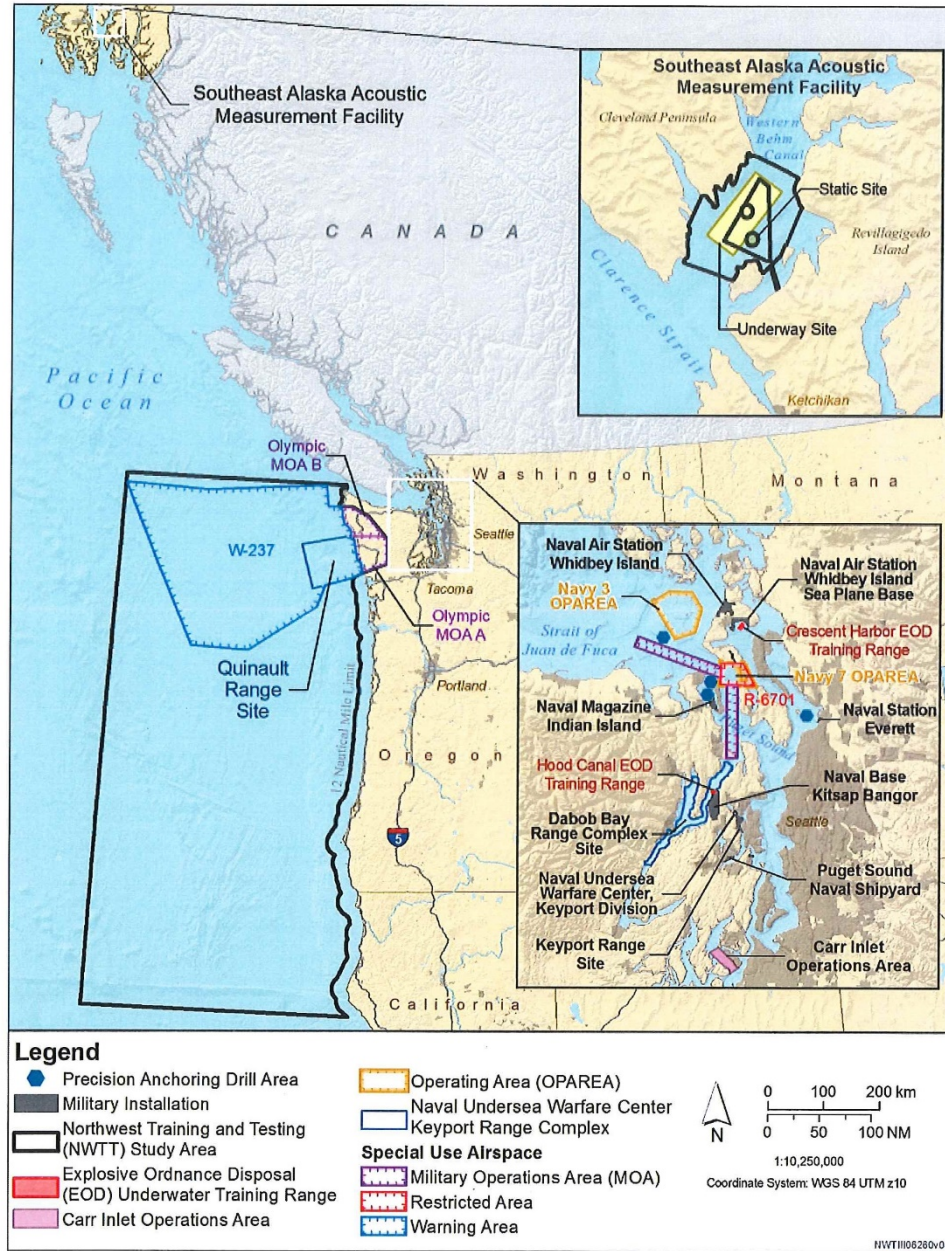
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. A. McNair", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

D. A. MCNAIR  
Director, Environmental Readiness Division  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: 1. Northwest Training and Testing Study Area



Enclosure 1: Northwest Training and Testing Study Area



## I.2 Cooperating Agency Status

### I.2.1 Navy Request Letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

5090  
Ser N45/17U132423  
September 27, 2017

Ms. Donna S. Wieting  
Director, Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT - COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST

Dear Ms. Wieting:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Executive Order (EO) 12114, the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the continuation of military readiness activities, which consist of training as well as research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E, hereinafter referred to as "testing") activities that include the use of active sonar and explosives in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area. The proposed training and testing activities within the NWTT Study Area support the Navy's Title 10 of the U.S. Code requirements to achieve and maintain military readiness by ensuring the Navy can provide trained and equipped combat-ready forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

This NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS represents the third phase (Phase III) of ongoing NEPA and EO 12114 compliance for continuation of at-sea training and testing. It will evaluate the conduct of military readiness activities from 2020 into the reasonably foreseeable future and accommodate evolving mission requirements associated with force structure changes, including those resulting from the development, testing, and ultimate introduction of new platforms (vessels, aircraft, and weapon systems) into the Fleet.

The Phase III NWTT Study Area remains consistent with the area studied in the Phase II NWTT EIS/OEIS completed in 2015 and consists of established maritime operating and warning areas in the eastern North Pacific Ocean region, located adjacent to the northwest coast of the United States, and areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Behm Canal. The Study Area includes four existing range complexes and facilities: the Northwest Training Range Complex, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport Range Complex, the Carr Inlet Operations Area, and the Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility. In addition to these range complexes, the Study Area also includes select Navy pierside locations and inland waters that are outside the range complexes.



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September 27, 2017

The Phase III NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS is intended to serve as a basis for the renewal of current regulatory permits and authorizations and the analysis of emerging and future force structure changes and training and testing requirements. An important aspect of the Phase III NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS will be the analysis of the potential effects to marine species protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and habitats protected under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The existing MMPA Final Rule and Letters of Authorization for NWTTC Phase II activities will expire in November 2020.

To complete the analysis required by the permitting and consultation process pursuant to MMPA and ESA in an efficient and effective way, the Navy believes that participation by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is needed. Therefore, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (specifically 40 CFR Part 1501) and CEQ's 2002 guidance on cooperating agencies, the Navy requests that NMFS serve as a cooperating agency for the development of the Phase III NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Consistent with 40 CFR 1501.6, the Navy is requesting NMFS' participation as early in the planning process as possible. As the lead agency, the Navy will:

- a. Gather all necessary background information and prepare the Supplemental EIS/OEIS and all necessary permit applications associated with acoustic issues within the Study Area;
- b. Work with NMFS personnel to determine the method of estimating potential effects to protected marine species, including threatened and endangered species;
- c. Determine the scope of the NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS, including the alternatives evaluated;
- d. Circulate the NEPA document to the general public and any other interested parties;
- e. Schedule and supervise meetings held in support of the NEPA process and compile comments received; and
- f. Maintain an administrative record and respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests relating to the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The Navy respectfully requests that NMFS, in its role as a cooperating agency, provide the following support:

- a. Participate in the NEPA process, to include public participation efforts pertaining to the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and fund such support through its own sources to the maximum extent possible;

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Ser N45/17U132423  
September 27, 2017

- b. Provide timely comments on working drafts of the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS in accordance with the approved project schedule and commenting protocols, and provide minutes of any agency information meetings that have been adjudicated within the agency;
- c. Adhere to the overall schedule as set forth by the Navy in coordination with NMFS;
- d. Respond to Navy requests for information, in particular, those related to review of the acoustic effects analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of protection and mitigation measures;
- e. Coordinate, to the maximum extent practicable, any public comment periods that are necessary in the MMPA permitting process with the Navy's NEPA public comment periods;
- f. Make available staff support at Navy's request to enhance the Navy's interdisciplinary capability;
- g. Participate, as necessary, in meetings hosted by the Navy for discussion of issues related to the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS;
- h. Utilize NMFS resources, including funding where appropriate, in support of executing its cooperating agency responsibilities.
- i. Prepare any NMFS-specific documents required to support the NMFS decision-making process;
- j. Maintain an administrative record and respond to FOIA requests relating to the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS; and
- k. Provide a formal, written response to this request.

The Navy views this agreement as important to the successful completion of the environmental planning process for the Phase III NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS. It is the Navy's goal to complete the analysis as expeditiously as possible, while using the best scientific information available. NMFS assistance is invaluable to this endeavor.

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Ser N45/17U132423  
September 27, 2017

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to your response. The point of contact for this action is Ms. Dawn Schroeder, (703) 695-5219, email: dawn.schroeder@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



C. A. LAHTI  
Director, Energy and Environmental  
Readiness Division

Copy to:  
OPNAV (N9I, N83)  
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (N46)  
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (N465)  
Commander, Navy Installations Command (N45)  
Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command  
Commander, Naval Air Systems Command  
Commander, Navy Region Northwest  
Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, (N45)

I.2.2 National Marine Fisheries Service Response Letter to the Navy



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Captain C.A. Lahti  
Director, Energy and  
Environmental and Readiness Division  
Department of the Navy  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Dear Captain Lahti:

Thank you for your letter requesting the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) be a cooperating agency in the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to evaluate potential environmental effects in the Department of the Navy's (Navy) Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) Study Area. Activities conducted in the NWT Study Area will achieve and maintain military readiness and include current, emerging, and future training activities and research, development, test and evaluation events (Phase III). We support the Navy's decision to prepare a Supplemental EIS/OEIS on this activity and agree to be a cooperating agency, due, in part, to our responsibilities under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. NOAA Fisheries will make every effort to support the Navy in the development of a Supplemental EIS/OEIS, including:

- Participating, as necessary, in meetings hosted by the Navy for the discussion of issues related to the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS;
- Providing timely comments on working drafts of the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS in accordance with the approved project schedule and commenting protocols;
- Responding to Navy requests for information, in particular, those related to review of the acoustic effects analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of protection and mitigation measures; and
- Adhering to the overall schedule as set forth by the Navy in coordination with NMFS.

If you need any additional information, please contact Jolie Harrison at (301) 427-8420.

Sincerely,

Samuel D. Rauch III  
Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Regulatory Programs  
National Marine Fisheries Service

cc: Barry Thom, NMFS WCRO  
Vicki Wedell, NMFS HQ NMS  
Steve Leathery, NMFS HQ NEPA  
Dawn Schroeder, Navy



Printed on Recycled Paper





I.2.3 Navy Request Letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

5090  
Ser N45/17U132427  
October 4, 2017

Mr. Greg Sheehan  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT - COOPERATING AGENCY

Dear Mr. Sheehan:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Executive Order (EO) 12114, the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the continuation of military readiness activities, which consist of training as well as research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E, hereinafter referred to as "testing") activities that include the use of active sonar and explosives in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area. The proposed training and testing activities within the NWTT Study Area supports the Navy's Title 10 of the U.S. Code requirements to achieve and maintain military readiness by ensuring the Navy can provide trained and equipped combat-ready forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

This NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS represents the third phase (Phase III) of ongoing NEPA and EO 12114 compliance for continuation of at-sea training and testing. It will evaluate the conduct of military readiness activities from 2020 into the reasonably foreseeable future and accommodate evolving mission requirements associated with force structure changes, including those resulting from the development, testing, and ultimate introduction of new platforms (vessels, aircraft, and weapon systems) into the Fleet.

The Phase III NWTT Study Area remains consistent with the area studied in the Phase II NWTT EIS/OEIS completed in 2015 and consists of established maritime operating and warning areas in the eastern North Pacific Ocean region, located adjacent to the northwest coast of the United States, and areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes four existing range complexes and facilities: the Northwest Training Range Complex, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport Range Complex, the Carr Inlet Operations Area, and the Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility. In addition to these range complexes, the Study Area also includes select Navy pierside locations and inland waters that are outside the range complexes.

An important aspect of the Phase III NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS will be the analysis of the potential effects to species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and habitats protected under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The

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Ser N45/17U132427  
October 4, 2017

programmatic Biological Opinion for NWTT will expire in July 21, 2036. The NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS is intended to serve as a basis for a review of and potential amendment to the Biological Opinion and the analysis of emerging and future force structure changes and training and testing requirements.

To complete the analysis required by the permitting and consultation process pursuant to ESA in an efficient and effective way, the Navy believes that participation by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is needed. Therefore, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (specifically 40 CFR Part 1501) and CEQ's 2002 guidance on cooperating agencies, the Navy requests that the USFWS serve as a cooperating agency for the development of the Phase III NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Consistent with 40 CFR 1501.6, the Navy is requesting USFWS' participation as early in the planning process as possible. As the lead agency, the Navy will:

- a. Gather all necessary background information and prepare the Supplemental EIS/OEIS and all necessary permit applications associated with acoustic issues within the Study Area.
- b. Work with USFWS personnel to determine the method of estimating potential effects to threatened and endangered species.
- c. Determine the scope of the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, including the alternatives evaluated.
- d. Circulate the appropriate NEPA documentation to the general public and any other interested parties.
- e. Schedule and supervise meetings held in support of the NEPA process and compile comments received.
- f. Maintain an administrative record and respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests relating to the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The Navy respectfully requests the USFWS, in its role as a cooperating agency, provide support as follows:

- a. Participate in the NEPA process, to include public participation efforts pertaining to the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and fund such support through its own sources to maximum extent possible.



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Ser N45/17U132427  
October 4, 2017

- b. Provide timely comments on working drafts of the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS and minutes of any agency information meetings that have been adjudicated within the agency.
- c. The Navy requests that comments on draft documents be provided in accordance with approved project schedules and commenting protocols.
- d. Respond to Navy requests for information, in particular, those related to review of the acoustic effects analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of protection and mitigation measures.
- e. Make available staff support at Navy's request to enhance the Navy's interdisciplinary capability.
- f. Participate, as necessary, in meetings hosted by the Navy for discussion of issues related to the Phase III Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
- g. Utilize USFWS resources, including funding where appropriate, to support the cooperating agency role.
- j. Prepare any USFWS-specific documents required to support the USFWS decision-making process.
- k. Provide a formal, written response to this request.

The Navy views this agreement as important to the successful completion of the environmental planning process for the Phase III NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS. It is the Navy's goal to complete the analysis as expeditiously as possible, while using the best scientific information available. USFWS assistance is invaluable to this endeavor.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to your response. The point of contact for this action is Ms. Dawn Schroeder, (703) 695 - 5219, email: dawn.schroeder@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



C. A. LAHTI  
Director, Energy and Environmental  
Readiness Division

Copy to: (see next page)

5090  
Ser N45/17U132427  
October 4, 2017

Copy to:  
OPNAV (N9I, N83)  
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (N46)  
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (N465)  
Commander, Navy Installations Command (N45)  
Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command  
Commander, Naval Air Systems Command  
Commander, Navy Region Northwest  
Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, (N45)  
Mr. Eric Rickerson, State Supervisor, Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, WA 98503

I.2.4 Navy Request Letter to the U.S. Coast Guard



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N46/1250  
October 12, 2017

Vice Admiral Fred M. Midgette  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area  
Coast Guard Defense Force West  
Coast Guard Island, Bldg. 51-6  
Alameda, CA, 94501-5100

Dear Admiral Midgette:

Subj: NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT -  
COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Executive Order (EO) 12114, the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with training and testing activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area. The proposed training and testing activities within the NWTT Study Area supports the Navy's Title 10 of the U.S. Code requirements to achieve and maintain military readiness by ensuring the Navy can provide trained and equipped combat-ready forces.

The NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS represents the third phase (Phase III) of ongoing NEPA and EO 12114 compliance for continuation of at-sea training and testing. It will evaluate the conduct of military readiness activities from 2020 into the reasonably foreseeable future and accommodate evolving mission requirements associated with force structure changes, including those resulting from the development, testing, and ultimate introduction of new platforms (vessels, aircraft, and weapon systems) into the Fleet.

The Phase III NWTT Study Area remains consistent with the area studied in the Phase II NWTT EIS/OEIS completed in 2015 and consists of established maritime operating and warning areas in the eastern North Pacific Ocean region, located adjacent to the northwest coast of the United States, and areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska.

The Phase III NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS is intended to serve as a basis for the renewal of current regulatory permits and authorizations and the analysis of emerging and future force structure changes and training and testing requirements. An important aspect of the Phase III NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS will be the analysis of the potential effects to marine species protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and habitats protected under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and

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Ser N46/1250  
October 12, 2017

Management Act. The existing MMPA Final Rule and Letters of Authorization for Phase II NWTT activities will expire in November 2020.

As with the 2015 Phase II NWTT EIS/OEIS, certain U.S. Coast Guard units and personnel are proposed to continue to support Navy Maritime Security Operation activities within the NWTT Study Area, and are appropriate to incorporate within this study. Therefore, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (specifically 40 CFR Part 1501) and CEQ's 2002 guidance on cooperating agencies, the Navy requests that the U.S. Coast Guard serve as a cooperating agency for the development of the Phase III NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Consistent with 40 CFR Part 1501.6, the Navy is the lead agency for the Phase III NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS. As the lead agency, the Navy will:

- Use U.S. Coast Guard environmental analysis and proposals to the maximum extent possible consistent with its responsibility as lead agency.
- Meet with the U.S. Coast Guard to discuss the Supplemental EIS/OEIS process, as requested.
- Circulate the appropriate NEPA documentation to the general public and any other interested parties.
- Schedule and supervise meetings held in support of the NEPA process and compile comments received.
- Maintain an administrative record and respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests relating to the SEIS/OEIS.

Navy respectfully requests the U.S. Coast Guard, in its role as a cooperating agency, provide the following support:

- Participate in the NEPA process.
- Provide a representative during the public outreach process within the USCG Area of Responsibility.
- Provide data to the Navy on Coast Guard activities that take place in the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS study area.
- Assume, on request of the Navy, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses, for which the Coast Guard has special expertise.

5090  
Ser N46/1250  
October 12, 2017

- Make available staff support at the Navy's request to enhance the Navy's interdisciplinary capability for the study.
- Participate, as necessary, in meetings hosted by the Navy for discussion of issues related to the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.
- Utilize Coast Guard resources, including funding where appropriate, to support the cooperating agency role.
- Adhere to the overall schedule, as set forth by the Navy.
- Provide a formal, written response to this request.

The Navy views this agreement as important to the successful completion of the environmental planning process for the Phase III NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS. It is the Navy's goal to complete the analysis as expeditiously as possible, while using the best scientific information available. The Coast Guard's assistance is invaluable in this endeavor.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to your response. The point of contact for this action is Mr. John Mosher, COMPACFLT N465JM at (360) 257 - 3234, email: john.g.mosher@navy.mil.

Very respectfully,



J. W. KORKA  
Fleet Civil Engineer

Copy to:  
CNO WASHINGTON DC (N45)  
COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHINGTON DC  
COMNAVAIRSYS COM PATUXENT RIVER MD  
COMNAVREG NW SILVERDALE WA



I.2.5 U.S. Coast Guard Response Letter to the Navy

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
Coast Guard Pacific Area

Coast Guard Island, Bldg. 51-6  
Alameda, CA 94501-5100  
Staff Symbol: PAC-00  
Phone: (510) 437-3908  
Fax: (510) 437-3774

16475  
29 Dec 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

From:  F.M. Midgette, ADM  
PACAREA (PAC-00)

To: J. W. Korka, RDML  
Fleet Civil Engineer  
United States Pacific Fleet

Subj: NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING EIS COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST

Ref: (a) Your letter 5090 of 12 Oct 2017

1. The Coast Guard is pleased to accept the offer, as per reference (a), to participate as a cooperating agency in the subject EIS/OEIS. Doing so will materially further the Coast Guard's interest in the use of Navy range complexes for necessary Coast Guard weapons and military readiness training. The Coast Guard's participation will also assist in mutual efforts associated with the operation of the Range Complex and establishment of safety zones in accordance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 165. As the Coast Guard is a military service and a branch of the Armed Forces, we believe that this action is, and will remain, in full compliance with 40 CFR Part 1501 and the council on Environmental Quality Cooperating Agency guidance issued on 30 January 2002.

2. The Coast Guard agrees with the Navy's statements on pages 2 and 3 of reference (a) concerning the Navy's actions as the lead agency in the EIS/OEIS. As a cooperating agency, the Coast Guard will, to the extent allowed by available resources and fiscal constraints:

- Participate in the NEPA process;
- Provide data to the Navy on Coast Guard activities and operations that take place in the NWTT EIS/OEIS study areas;
- Assume, on request of the Navy, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses, for which the Coast Guard has special expertise;
- Make staff support available at the lead agency's request to enhance the Navy's interdisciplinary capability, consistent with operational requirements;
- Participate, as necessary, in meetings hosted by the Navy for discussion of issues related to the EIS/OEIS;
- Utilize available Coast Guard resources, including funding where appropriate and available, to support our role as a cooperating agency; and

Subj: NORTHWEST TRAINING & TESTING EIS COOPERATING AGENCY  
REQUEST

5090

- Adhere to the overall schedule as set forth by the Navy.

3. As a cooperating agency, I request that the U.S. Coast Guard, as an armed force of the United States within the Department of Homeland Security, be expressly mentioned and described in the NWTT EIS/OEIS, and our operations and activities that take place in the study area be analyzed for environmental effects. To assist the Navy, the Coast Guard is providing operational data to the Navy on Coast Guard operations and activities that take place in the NWTT EIS/OEIS study areas, and we will continue to do so as necessary and appropriate.

4. This memo constitutes the formal written response requested by your letter. I request that the Navy supply the Coast Guard with two preliminary copies of all draft and final NWTT EISs/OEISs for our review of these documents, with a minimum 14 day response period in each instance. This action is important to the successful completion of the environmental planning process for the NWTT EIS/OEIS. We look forward to working with the Navy to facilitate mission accomplishment through productive use of the Northwest Training and Testing Range Complex.

5. The Coast Guard point of contact for all correspondence and exchanges of information with the Navy concerning the NWTT EIS/OEIS is Mr. Brad McKittrick, CG-OES-4 at (202) 372-1443, [Bradley.K.McKittrick@uscg.mil](mailto:Bradley.K.McKittrick@uscg.mil).

#

Copy: DCMS  
DCO  
CG-4  
CG-47  
CG-0941  
CG-7  
CG-OES  
CGDELEVEN  
CGD THIRTEEN  
CGD SEVENTEEN

### I.3 Marine Mammal Protection Act

#### I.3.1 Navy Incidental Take Authorization Request Letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N465/0282  
March 11, 2019

Director, Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
B-SSMC3, Room 13821  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Subject: REQUEST FOR MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT INCIDENTAL TAKE  
AUTHORIZATION AND REGULATIONS FOR U.S. NAVY NORTHWEST  
TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

Dear Director:

In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act, as amended, and 50 C.F.R. Part 216, the U.S. Navy requests a seven-year Letter of Authorization (LOA) and regulations for the taking of marine mammals incidental to Navy training and testing activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) area from November 2020 to November 2027.

Analysis supporting this request is contained within the Navy's NWT LOA application and in the Navy's 2019 NWT Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement. Due to the large file size and page count (>400 pages), the Navy will be electronically submitting the NWT LOA application directly to the appropriate National Marine Fisheries Service staff.

The U.S. Navy requests the above regulations authorize, and the NMFS issue, two seven-year Letters of Authorization; one issued to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet for training activities and one issued to Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command for testing activities. Addresses for these commands are provided below:

Commander, United States Pacific Fleet  
Attn: N465  
250 Makalapa Drive  
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3131

Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command  
Attn: Code SEA 04R  
1333 Isaac Hull Avenue, SE  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20376



5090  
Ser N465/0282  
March 11, 2019

We appreciate your continued support in helping the U.S. Navy meet its environmental responsibilities. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Andrea Balla-Holden at 360-396-0002 or [andrea.ballaholden@navy.mil](mailto:andrea.ballaholden@navy.mil).

Sincerely,




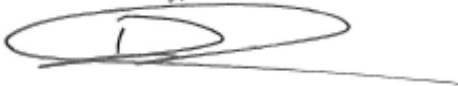
Daniel A. McNair  
Director, Fleet Environmental Readiness Division  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: Request for Regulations and Letter of Authorization for the Incidental Taking of  
Marine Mammals associated with U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the  
NWT Study Area



Copy to: OPNAV (N45)  
NAVSEASYSKOM  
NAVAIRSYSKOM

## I.4 Endangered Species Act Consultation

### I.4.1 Navy Request Letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service

	<b>DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY</b> COMMANDER UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET 250 MAKALAPA DRIVE PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131	IN REPLY REFER TO: 5090 Ser N465/1279 October 21, 2019
<p>Ms. Cathy Tortorici Division Chief, Endangered Species Act Interagency Cooperation Division Office of Protected Resources National Marine Fisheries Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration SSMC3, Room 13821 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910</p>		
<p>SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INITIATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 FORMAL CONSULTATION FOR THE U.S. NAVY'S NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES</p>		
<p>Dear Ms. Tortorici:</p>		
<p>In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the U.S. Navy (Navy) requests initiation of formal consultation on Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) activities occurring within the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California, and in the inland waters of Washington (Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca) and in Alaska (Western Behm Canal).</p>		
<p>The proposed action "<i>may affect</i>" listed species and designated critical habitat in the NWT Action Area. The NWT Biological Assessment (BA) (Enclosure 1) is the Navy's primary document that provides the required information pursuant to 50 C.F.R. §402.12(f). Those species and critical habitats with a "<i>no effect</i>" determination were not carried forward into the NWT BA.</p>		
<p>The complete list of ESA species and critical habitats evaluated and the Navy's determinations are provided in the attached summary table (Enclosure 2).</p>		
<p>The Navy is requesting formal consultation on the ESA-listed species with a "<i>likely to adversely affect</i>" determination. The Navy is requesting concurrence on our "<i>not likely to adversely affect</i>" determinations for listed species and designated critical habitat. The Navy will consult with NMFS on proposed critical habitat for the Southern Resident killer whale and the humpback whale once NMFS issues the Final Critical Habitat Designation.</p>		
<p>We appreciate your continued support in helping the Navy meet its environmental responsibilities. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Andrea Balla-Holden (360) 396-0002, <a href="mailto:andrea.ballaholden@navy.mil">andrea.ballaholden@navy.mil</a>.</p>		
<p>Sincerely,</p> 		
<p>DANIEL McNAIR Director, Environmental Readiness Division By direction of the Commander</p>		
<p>Enclosures: 1. NWT Biological Assessment (provided electronically) 2. Status &amp; Effect Determination Table for all ESA-listed Species and Critical Habitat in the NWT Study Area (provided electronically)</p>		

I.4.2 National Marine Fisheries Response Letter to the Navy

	<p><b>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</b> NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, Maryland 20910</p>
<p>June 15, 2020</p>	
<p>Refer to NMFS No.: OPR-2019-00786</p>	
<p>D. A. McNair Department of the Navy Director, Environmental Readiness Division United States Pacific Fleet 250 Makalapa Drive Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3131</p>	
<p>RE: Initiation of Consultation Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on the United States Navy Phase III Northwest Training and Testing Activities</p>	
<p>Dear Mr. McNair:</p>	
<p>On October 21, 2019, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received your request for formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), for Northwest Training and Testing activities proposed by the United States Navy. This response to your request was prepared by NMFS pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, implementing regulations at (50 CFR §402), and agency guidance.</p>	
<p>We have determined that the NMFS Permits and Conservation Division's proposed issuance of regulations in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act to the Navy for the take of marine mammals during military readiness activities in the Northwest Training and Testing Study Area is interrelated and interdependent with the Navy's proposed action. As such, section 7 consultation with the Navy requires information on the proposed regulations from the Permits and Conservation Division to complete our analysis and prepare a biological opinion. We received a request for formal consultation from the Permits and Conservation Division, along with the proposed regulations, on May 27, 2020.</p>	
<p>Based on our review of the information submitted by the Navy and NMFS Permits and Conservation Division, we determined that there is sufficient information to initiate formal section 7 consultation. We are initiating consultation as of June 2, 2020. During consultation, we may request additional information or clarification to assist us in completing this consultation. Additionally, during formal consultation, we intend to propose additional mitigation to the Navy to minimize impacts to ESA-listed resources.</p>	
<p>The ESA requires that after initiation of formal consultation, the action agency may not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources that would preclude the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternatives that would avoid violating section 7(a)(2) (50 CFR §402.09). This prohibition is in force during the consultation process and continues until the requirements of section 7(a)(2) are satisfied.</p>	
	

We plan to finalize our biological opinion prior to issuance of the Marine Mammal Protection Act regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Salz at (301) 427-8487 or by email at [ron.salz@noaa.gov](mailto:ron.salz@noaa.gov), or me at (301) 427-8495 or by e-mail at [cathy.tortorici@noaa.gov](mailto:cathy.tortorici@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Kristine Petersen*

*For*

Cathryn E. Tortorici  
Chief, ESA Interagency Cooperation Division  
Office of Protected Resources

I.4.3 Navy Request Letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N465/1292  
October 24, 2019

Mr. Brad Thompson  
Acting Manager  
Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102  
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Mr. Thompson:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REINITIATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT  
SECTION 7 FORMAL CONSULTATION FOR THE U.S. NAVY'S  
NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Section 7(a) (2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the U.S. Navy (Navy) requests reinitiation of formal consultation on Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) activities. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Biological Opinion (BiOp) on July 21, 2016 and a reinitiated BiOp on December 11, 2018.

Pursuant to 50 Code of Federal Regulations Section 402.16(b) and (c), reinitiation of formal consultation is required because (1) new information reveals effects of the Navy's proposed activities (the action) may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, and (2) the Navy proposes to modify its previous identified action in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in the BiOp.

The proposed action "*may affect*" listed species and designated critical habitat in the NWT Action Area. The NWT Biological Assessment (BA) (Enclosure) provides the required information and analysis pursuant to 50 C.F.R. §402.12(f). Those species and critical habitats with a "*no effect*" determination were not carried forward into the NWT BA.

The Navy concluded, "*may affect, likely to adversely affect*" for the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) from the proposed testing activities and "*may affect, likely to adversely affect*" for bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) from proposed training activities. The Navy is requesting formal consultation for species with a "*likely to adversely affect*" determination.

The Navy also concluded "*may affect, not likely to adversely affect*" for the marbled murrelet (from training activities) and for the short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) (from



SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REINITIATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT  
SECTION 7 FORMAL CONSULTATION FOR THE U.S. NAVY'S  
NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

training and testing activities) and for bull trout (from testing activities). The Navy determined "*may affect, not likely to adversely affect*" for bull trout designated critical habitat. The Navy is requesting informal consultation and concurrence on our "*not likely to adversely affect*" determinations.

The Navy has determined that the action would have "*no effect*" on critical habitat for marbled murrelet. Short-tailed albatross critical habitat has not been designated.

SECTION 7(d) ANALYSIS AND DETERMINATION:

Section 7(d) of the ESA provides that "after initiation of consultation required under subsection (a) (2), the Federal agency and the permit or license applicant shall not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources with respect to the agency action which has the effect of foreclosing the formulation or implementation of any reasonable and prudent alternative measures which would not violate subsection (a)(2)."

The Navy acknowledges that this prohibition is in force until the reinitiated consultation is concluded. Section 7(d) does not prohibit all aspects of an agency action from proceeding during consultation; rather, non-jeopardizing activities (those currently permitted under the 2016 and 2018 BiOps) may be implemented if to do so would not violate Section 7(d). Thus, during this period of reinitiation, the Navy plans to continue conducting training and testing events, as permitted in the 2016 and 2018 BiOps, and continue implementing all the associated conservation measures.

We appreciate your continued support in helping the Navy meet its environmental responsibilities. My points of contact for this matter are Ms. Cindi Kunz, (360) 396-1860, cindi.kunz@navy.mil or Ms. Andrea Balla-Holden, andrea.ballaholden@navy.mil, (360) 396-0002.

Sincerely,



DANIEL McNAIR  
Director, Environmental Readiness Division  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: NWTT Biological Assessment (Provided Electronically)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NWTT Phase III Deconstruction Matrix  
**Date:** Monday, December 02, 2019 7:42:23 PM

---

Jason / All,

Per USFWS request, attached is the NWTT Phase III Deconstruction Matrix to assist in your analysis.

Additionally, and as we discussed last week, the Navy is reducing the number of Gunnery Exercises, Surface-to-Air, NEPM large caliber rounds as reflected on line A.2 of the attached document. This reduction in NEPM large caliber rounds from 6,670 to 80 will result in "no change" from the number of activities analyzed during the NWTT Phase II ESA consultation.

Please let me know if you have any questions during your review of this document.

V/r,  
Cindi

---

Cynthia A. Kunz  
NAVFAC NW, Senior Biologist; ESA Coordinator

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Revised Deconstruction Matrix 30 Jan 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 1:16:56 PM

---

Jason,

Attached is the revised NWT USFWS BA Deconstruction Matrices with Effect Determinations. The recent changes are denoted in track changes so you can see what edits were made to the last version.

The analyses and justification you requested of the Navy's acoustic team pertaining to the STAL and specific offshore activities is forthcoming.

V/r,  
Cindi

---

Cynthia A. Kunz  
NAVFAC NW, Senior Biologist; ESA Coordinator

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2020 7:27 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Revised Deconstruction Matrix

Jason,

As you requested, the Navy has revised the deconstruction matrix and provided additional information in this attached document. Please let me know if this satisfies that request.

Additionally, the Navy is finalizing the write-up you requested specific to the range to effects rationale and explanation to support the NLAA determination for STAL. I expect to transmit that document to you early in the week after I have clarified a couple of points with the acoustic team.



I will be on travel next week, but will have my computer and checking emails intermittently throughout the day. Please feel free to reach out to me via cell phone if you wish to discuss this consultation.

V/r,  
Cindi

~~~~~  
Cynthia A. Kunz  
NAVFAC NW, Senior Biologist; ESA Coordinator

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** STAL Rationale  
**Date:** Sunday, February 02, 2020 4:28:02 PM

---

Jason / All,

As requested, attached is the rationale pertaining to the STAL effect determination. Please let me know if you wish to discuss or if additional information is needed for the NWTT USFWS ESA consultation.

V/r,  
Cindi

---

Cynthia A. Kunz  
NAVFAC NW, Senior Biologist; ESA Coordinator

[REDACTED]

---

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Revised Deconstruction Matrix 30 Jan 2020

Jason,

Attached is the revised NWTT USFWS BA Deconstruction Matrices with Effect Determinations. The recent changes are denoted in track changes so you can see what edits were made to the last version.

The analyses and justification you requested of the Navy's acoustic team pertaining to the STAL and specific offshore activities is forthcoming.

V/r,  
Cindi

---

Cynthia A. Kunz  
NAVFAC NW, Senior Biologist; ESA Coordinator



---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 7:27 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Subject: Revised Deconstruction Matrix

Jason,

As you requested, the Navy has revised the deconstruction matrix and provided additional information in this attached document. Please let me know if this satisfies that request.

Additionally, the Navy is finalizing the write-up you requested specific to the range to effects rationale and explanation to support the NLAA determination for STAL. I expect to transmit that document to you early in the week after I have clarified a couple of points with the acoustic team.

I will be on travel next week, but will have my computer and checking emails intermittently throughout the day. Please feel free to reach out to me via cell phone if you wish to discuss this consultation.

V/r,  
Cindi

---

Cynthia A. Kunz  
NAVFAC NW, Senior Biologist; ESA Coordinator



**Navy effect determination of NLAA for in-air Weapons Noise and Explosive Stressors, Section 7 ESA consultation with USFWS for the Short-Tailed Albatross (NWTT Study Area)**

In the 2015 informal consultation on effects to the short-tailed albatross (STAL) in the NWTT Study Area, the Navy reached an effects determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect”. On October 30, 2015, USFWS informed the Navy that FWS did not concur with this determination. The Navy then initiated formal consultation for this species.

In their 2016 Biological Opinion, USFWS calculated that approximately 5.5 STAL would experience adverse effects from medium-caliber explosive projectiles from surface-to-air and surface-to-surface gunnery exercises, and that approximately 1.3 STAL would experience adverse effects from large-caliber explosive projectiles from surface-to-air and surface-to-surface gunnery exercises over 20 years. For all non-explosive practice munitions (NEPM), a total of 4.5 STAL were estimated to experience adverse effects over 20 years. The total number of STAL predicted to experience adverse effects from these gunnery exercises over 20 years was 11.3 individuals. USFWS estimated take of approximately 7 STAL over 20 years from in-air explosives in Phase II. These calculations were based on Ranges to Effect (RTEs) provided by the Navy, including RTEs for gun blast noise for large caliber munitions, supersonic bow shock projectile noise, and explosive energy (for explosive ordnance).

In the Phase III consultation, the US Navy submitted a Biological Assessment (B) on 24 October 2019 and requested ESA consultation. The Navy’s revised acoustic and explosives modeling improves the understanding of these stressors’ potential impacts on species included in this BA. The reasoning for Navy’s NLAA effects determination for Weapon Noise and Explosives under the Acoustic and Explosive stressor category for STAL is outlined below.

**Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation Measures, and Geographic Overlap**

*Standard Operating Procedures*

All weapons firing activities that involve the use of explosive munitions are conducted during daylight hours. This standard operating procedure benefits seabirds by increasing the effectiveness of visual observations for mitigation during applicable explosive weapons firing activities.

*Mitigation Measures*

The Navy also will continue to implement procedural mitigation to reduce impacts to seabirds (any species). In their 2016 BO, USFWS concluded that standard operating procedures, mitigation measures, and monitoring would not eliminate risk to birds, citing that expert biologists were needed to identify ESA-listed birds. In the current Phase III consultation, lookouts will observe the mitigation zone and delay or relocate the activity when any birds (any species) are present, eliminating this concern. Procedural mitigation measures are in place to avoid impacts from: 1) weapon firing noise during Lg-cal gunnery activities (BA Table 2-8); 2) explosive Med-cal projectiles (BA Table 2-9); and 3) Med-cal non-explosive practice munitions (BA Table 2-11). Excerpts of these procedural mitigations from the Navy’s submitted Phase III Biological Assessment are provided at the end of this summary document.

*Geographic Overlap*

Figure 3-5 (below) shows that documented STAL presence has minimal overlap with Navy activities for the Proposed Action. Under the reinitiated Biological Opinion of 2018, the Navy agreed to conduct

gunnery exercises using explosive projectiles and maritime patrol aircraft testing activities using explosive sonobuoys greater than 50 NM from shore, consistent with all other explosive activities analyzed in the Phase II consultation (with the exception of a limited number of EOD training activities conducted in Inland Waters). Similarly, for Phase III, the Navy will not conduct explosive training activities, explosive testing activities (with the exception of explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing), and missile training within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. Additionally, the Navy will not conduct non-explosive large-caliber gunnery training or non-explosive bombing training within 20 NM from shore. These mitigations would limit the potential for overlap with a significant portion of the short-tailed albatross preferred areas. From the 2019 BA: "Data indicates that the short-tailed albatross is much more likely to be present within 50 NM from shore, near upwellings associated with the shelf break, as described in Section 3.3.2 (Distribution); therefore, the potential for any exposures of short-tailed albatross to explosives in the Offshore Area is considered discountable."

Importantly, the STAL takes calculated in the 2016 Biological Opinion were based on the assumption that exposures to explosives could occur >20 NM from shore. The estimated takes were not revised in the 2018 reinitiated Biological Opinion, even though evidence suggests that conducting all explosive activities >50 NM from shore would significantly reduce the potential for overlap with STAL.

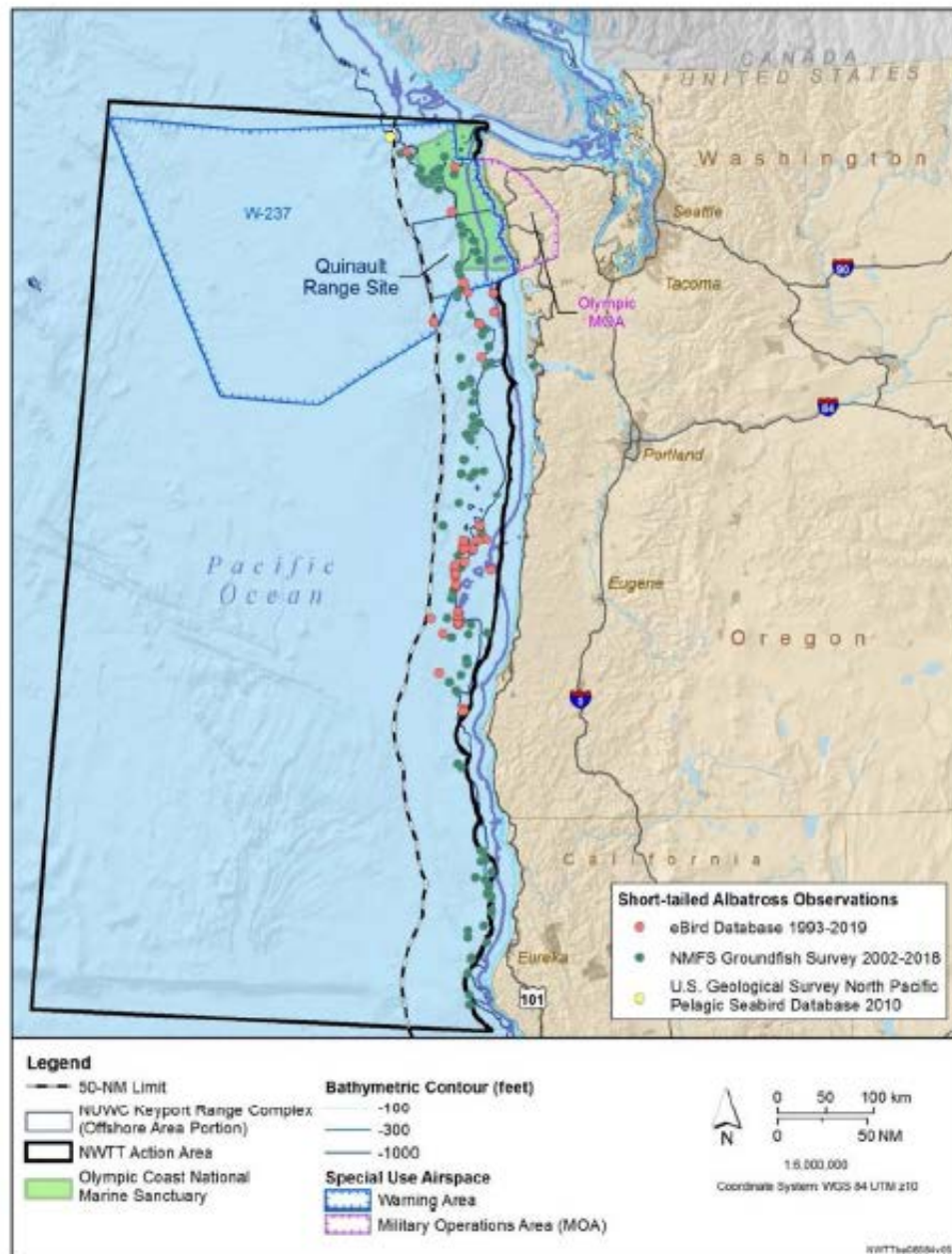


Figure 3-1: Occurrences of Short-Tailed Albatross Within the NWTT Offshore Area



### Criteria

Since Phase II, no changes have been made to the criteria and thresholds except for the in-air impulsive criterion. Since Phase II, the onset threshold for auditory injury due to in-air explosions has been modified to use a more appropriate metric: unweighted peak pressure, rather than A-weighted peak pressure. In Phase II, the onset of auditory injury was defined as 140 dBA re 20  $\mu$ Pa peak, but this criterion in Phase III is defined as 165 dB re 20  $\mu$ Pa peak. For a detailed description and justification of this change, see the subsection entitled "Criteria and Thresholds Used to Estimate Impacts from Weapon Noise" in Section 5.3.1.1.5.1 of the 2019 BA.

### Likelihood of Exposure

Overall, small areas of effect and ranges to effect were calculated following the same methods recommended in Phase II for gunnery exercises and other activities with in-air projectiles. Three components of weapons firing are considered in developing ranges to effect: blast noise (for large caliber shells only), bow shock noise (for supersonic projectiles), and explosions (in-air or at the water surface). These are each discussed below, with differences and similarities between Phase II and Phase III analytical methods identified. Lastly, differences in activity levels between Phase II and Phase III are provided.

#### *Blast noise:*

The range to effect for blast noise is based on actual 5-inch gun blast measurements. The estimated range to effect provided in the Navy's Phase III Biological Assessment is similar to the range used in the 2016 Biological Opinion, although slightly less due to refinement of the in-air auditory injury threshold, and is also based on Pater (1981).

#### *Bow shock wave:*

Consistent with Phase II, the Navy used the methods in Pater (1981) to calculate the range to effect from bow shock waves. Area of effect and range to effect are limited despite conservative assumptions used in these calculations (see Table 5-33). The list of assumptions for weapons firing is as follows:

- A low 10-degree firing angle and a target point at 10 m above the water surface were used in area of effect calculations. This conservative estimate maximizes potential area of effect.
- Upper limit of 20 m bird altitude. [Note that Navy alerted FWS that their calculations for Phase II inadvertently did not include this 20 m altitude consideration, although the text of the 2016 Biological Opinion stated that bird flight altitude was considered to reach up to 20 m. The areas of effect for bow shock for both Surface-Air and Surface-Surface projectiles are limited because only a portion of the range to effect around the flight path, at the firing point or near the impact point (for S-S), extend below 20 m altitude. This is illustrated in Figure 16 of the 2016 Biological Opinion. This consideration of altitude was not implemented in USFWS 2016 BO for all weapons firing, and resulting calculations included a large area where birds are not present.]
- Mach number at firing likely overestimates the range of effect along the length of the trajectory, as it does not account for deceleration of gun shells.

As an example, Table 5-33 in the BA shows that the range to auditory injury from projectile bow shock waves is between 2 and 17 m for all non-explosive projectiles. This small range combined with the infrequent events (see Table 5-34) is the basis for the determination that such injury is extremely unlikely.

Furthermore, each round fired does not constitute an independent risk to birds. Birds would most likely avoid the area near trajectories with multiple rounds (e.g., gunnery) once an event has begun, avoiding the potential for multiple exposures in the area of effect. In Phase II, the Navy did not provide cluster sizes for weapons firing. In Section 10.4.5.4.1.1.3 of the USFWS 2016 BO, USFWS used the assumption that rounds would be fired in bursts of 5 to conclude that 1.6 STAL will be affected in 20 years from large-caliber firing (for example). In the two activities where non-explosive large-caliber rounds are fired, the actual cluster size range is 8-20 rounds, which reduces the potential risk to birds as determined by FWS's Phase II analysis. Similarly, in Section 10.4.5.4.1.1.2, FWS assumed that non-explosive medium-caliber projectiles would be fired in bursts of five. The actual cluster size range for medium caliber projectiles is 16-18 for E1, and 5 or E2. In Phase II, USFWS expected a "total of 2.1 short-tailed albatross to be within that area and therefore exposed to stressors" of medium-caliber non-explosives, but that number is probably high, given the above clarifications regarding actual weapons firing cluster size.

In Phase II, the Navy did not provide detailed target altitude information for all activities involving weapons firing, and USFWS assumptions about target altitude may have contributed to overestimating potential impacts to birds (see p. 188 of the 2016 BO). In Phase III, the surface-to-air gunnery exercise target altitude is 1,000 ft. or greater (304.2 m), which is far above the 20 m altitude where birds are likely to be present, decreasing the area of exposure estimated in Phase II.

*In-air explosives:*

The ranges to effect for onset of injury caused by in-air explosions (presented in Table 37, p178) used in the Phase II USFWS 2016 exposure analysis were between 241 m and 692 m. These ranges were based on FEMA's human safety standoff ranges, which are extremely conservative and inappropriate for use in the injury analysis, as was advised by the Navy. Human safety zones for bomb threats describe evacuation distances from explosive threats in the human environment, considering overpressure glass shatter and including factors of safety. Still, USFWS used these distances to calculate an area of effect, greatly over-estimating potential harm to birds. In contrast, the ranges to effect calculated by the Navy (using the same methods as the Phase II ranges that Navy provided) in Phase III were 9.3 – 159.7 m (See Table A below).



Table A. Ranges to effect comparison.

|     | Phase II                  |                          | Phase III                |                                        |                                              |
|-----|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|     | Range to 2 psi (onset TS) | Distance to Human Safety | Range to auditory injury | Range to non-auditory injury (impulse) | Range to non-auditory injury (peak pressure) |
| E1  | 17.2 m                    | 241 m                    | 9.3 m                    | 0.6 m                                  | 1.7 m                                        |
| E2  |                           |                          | 16.0 m                   | 2.1 m                                  | 2.9 m                                        |
| E3  | 28.7 m                    | 367 m                    |                          |                                        |                                              |
| E5  | 49.2 m                    | 442 m                    | 43.4 m                   | 16.4 m                                 | 7.9 m                                        |
| E7  | 91.3 m                    | 539 m                    |                          |                                        |                                              |
| E8  | 106.0 m                   | 567 m                    |                          |                                        |                                              |
| E10 | 179.6 m                   | 655 m                    | 159.7 m                  | 193.6 m                                | 29 m                                         |
| E12 | 228.2 m                   | 692 m                    |                          |                                        |                                              |

*Change in number of potential exposure occurrences*

Despite a modest increase in med-cal explosive rounds in the Surface-to-Surface Gunnery Exercise, there has been a significant reduction in the use of in-air explosives and Med-cal NEPM during the Gunnery Exercise Surface to Air and Gunnery Exercise Surface-to-Surface – Ship Training (refer to Table 2-4 in the BA). Between the 2016 BO and the 2019 BA, changes to gunnery activities include:

- Gunnery Exercise (Surface-to-Air):
  - The number of events has decreased from 160 to 125.
  - The number of Lg-cal explosive rounds has decreased from 230 to 60.
  - The number of Lg-cal NEPM rounds has not changed (80).
  - The number of Med-cal explosive rounds has decreased from 6,320 to 300.
  - The number of Med-cal NEPM rounds is nearly the same (9,672 to 9,660).
- Gunnery Exercise (Surface-to-Surface):
  - The number of events per year has changed from 200 to a range of 100-200.
  - The number of Lg-cal explosive rounds has decreased from 160 to 112.
  - The number of Lg-cal NEPM rounds has not changed (2,720).
  - The number of Med-cal explosive rounds has increased from 48 to 250.
  - The number of Med-cal NEPM has decreased from 33,492 to 16,750.

Based on the limited range to effect for most injury and the low potential for overlap with an ESA-listed bird in the Offshore Areas where these weapons are used, the potential for an injurious exposure is extremely low. Therefore, in consideration of mitigation measures and the low likelihood of overlap or significant response, the effects of weapons firing, launch, and non-explosive impact noise, and explosive detonations on short-tailed albatross would be discountable.

Mitigation measures applicable to seabirds (excerpt from the Navy's NWT Phase III Biological Assessment)

Table 2-1: Procedural Mitigation for Weapons Firing Noise

| <i>Procedural Mitigation Description</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Stressor or Activity</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weapons firing noise associated with large-caliber gunnery activities</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b><u>Resource Protection Focus</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seabirds (including marbled murrelets and short-tailed albatross)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b><u>Number of Lookouts and Observation Platform</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Lookout positioned on the ship conducting the firing</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b><u>Mitigation Requirements</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30° on either side of the firing line out to 70 yards (yd.) from the muzzle of the weapon being fired</li> </ul> </li> <li>Prior to the initial start of the activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observe the mitigation zone for seabirds; if observed, relocate or delay the start of weapons firing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>During the activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observe the mitigation zone for seabirds; if observed, cease weapons firing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Commencement/recommencement conditions after a seabird sighting before or during the activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Navy will allow a sighted seabird to leave the mitigation zone prior to the initial start of the activity (by delaying the start) or during the activity (by not recommencing weapons firing) until one of the following conditions has been met: (1) the animal is observed exiting the mitigation zone; (2) the animal is thought to have exited the mitigation zone based on a determination of its course, speed, and movement relative to the firing ship; (3) the mitigation zone has been clear from any additional sightings for 30 minutes; or (4) for mobile activities, the firing ship has transited a distance equal to double that of the mitigation zone size beyond the location of the last sighting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

Table 2-2: Procedural Mitigation for Explosive Medium-Caliber Projectiles

| <i>Procedural Mitigation Description</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Stressor or Activity</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gunnery activities using explosive medium-caliber projectiles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation applies to activities using a surface target</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Resource Protection Focus</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seabirds (including marbled murrelets and short-tailed albatross)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b><u>Number of Lookouts and Observation Platform</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Lookout on the vessel conducting the activity</li> <li>If additional platforms are participating in the activity, personnel positioned in those assets (e.g., safety observers, evaluators) will support observing the mitigation zone for applicable biological resources while performing their regular duties.</li> </ul>                                        |
| <b><u>Mitigation Requirements</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 yd. around the intended impact location</li> </ul> </li> <li>Prior to the initial start of the activity (e.g., when maneuvering on station): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observe the mitigation zone for seabirds; if observed, relocate or delay the start of firing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

- During the activity:
  - Observe the mitigation zone for seabirds; if observed, cease firing.
- Commencement/recommencement conditions after a seabird sighting before or during the activity:
  - The Navy will allow a sighted seabird to leave the mitigation zone prior to the initial start of the activity (by delaying the start) or during the activity (by not recommencing firing) until one of the following conditions has been met: (1) the animal is observed exiting the mitigation zone; (2) the animal is thought to have exited the mitigation zone based on a determination of its course, speed, and movement relative to the intended impact location; (3) the mitigation zone has been clear from any additional sightings for 30 minutes for vessel-based firing; or (4) for activities using mobile targets, the intended impact location has transited a distance equal to double that of the mitigation zone size beyond the location of the last sighting.
- After completion of the activity (e.g., prior to maneuvering off station):
  - When practical (e.g., when platforms are not constrained by fuel restrictions or mission-essential follow-on commitments), observe the vicinity of where detonations occurred; if any injured or dead ESA-listed species are observed, follow established incident reporting procedures.
  - If additional platforms are supporting this activity (e.g., providing range clearance), these assets will assist in the visual observation of the area where detonations occurred.

Table 2-3: Procedural Mitigation for Small-Caliber and Medium-Caliber Non-Explosive Practice Munitions

| <i>Procedural Mitigation Description</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u><b>Stressor or Activity</b></u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gunnery activities using small-caliber and medium-caliber non-explosive practice munitions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mitigation applies to activities using a surface target</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <u><b>Resource Protection Focus</b></u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seabirds (including marbled murrelets and short-tailed albatross)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <u><b>Number of Lookouts and Observation Platform</b></u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Lookout positioned on the platform conducting the activity</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <u><b>Mitigation Requirements</b></u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation zone:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 200 yd. around the intended impact location</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prior to the initial start of the activity (e.g., when maneuvering on station):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Observe the mitigation zone for seabirds; if observed, relocate or delay the start of firing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• During the activity:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Observe the mitigation zone for seabirds; if observed, cease firing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commencement/recommencement conditions after a seabird sighting before or during the activity:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Navy will allow a sighted seabird to leave the mitigation zone prior to the initial start of the activity (by delaying the start) or during the activity (by not recommencing firing) until one of the following conditions has been met: (1) the animal is observed exiting the mitigation zone; (2) the animal is thought to have exited the mitigation zone based on a determination of its course, speed, and movement relative to the intended impact location; (3) the mitigation zone has been clear from any additional sightings for 10 minutes for aircraft-based firing or 30 minutes for vessel-based firing; or (4) for activities using a mobile target, the intended impact location has transited a distance equal to double that of the mitigation zone size beyond the location of the last sighting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

I.4.4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Response Letter to the Navy



United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office  
510 Desmond Dr. S.E., Suite 102  
Lacey, Washington 98503



In Reply Refer To:  
01EWF00-2015-F-0251-R002

April 3, 2020

Daniel McNair  
Director, Environmental Readiness Division  
Department of the Navy  
U.S. Pacific Fleet  
250 Makalapa Drive  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3131

Dear Mr. McNair:

This letter acknowledges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your request to reinitiate consultation on the subject action. Your request was dated October 24, 2019 and received on October 24, 2019. We also received revisions to the proposed action and other relevant information on December 2, 2019, January 30, 2020, and February 2, 2020. We also received your revised, "may affect, likely to adversely affect", determinations for short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) on March 11, 2020. We anticipate concluding the reinitiated consultation and issuing a new biological opinion and incidental take statement (ITS), as appropriate, on or before July 23, 2020. This is within 135 days of our receipt of the revised proposed action in accordance with the March 2019 Consultation Agreement between U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, for Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultations. Within this timeframe, we expect to deliver a draft of the biological opinion by June 19, 2020, to you for your review.

In the meantime, the existing biological opinion and ITS will remain in place. The existing opinion found the subject action to be compliant with the requirements of ESA section 7(a)(2) (i.e., the biological opinion concluded that the subject action was not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), short-tailed albatross, and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)) and the ITS terms and conditions provide for

INTERIOR REGION 9  
COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST  
IDAHO, MONTANA\*, OREGON\*, WASHINGTON  
\*PARTIAL

INTERIOR REGION 12  
PACIFIC ISLANDS  
AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

Daniel McNair

2

annual reporting. During the period of reinitiated consultation, the Service does not anticipate the Navy exceeding the level of exempted take provided in the existing ITS given the number of operations proposed in the Navy's October 2019 Biological Assessment. Should this assessment change during consultation, we will advise you immediately.

This response to your request was prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, the implementing regulations for section 7 at 50 CFR 402, and Fish and Wildlife Service policy and guidance. The Service appreciates the Navy's request to reinitiate consultation on the subject action. Our point of contact for the reinitiated consultation is Jason Flory ([jason\\_flory@fws.gov](mailto:jason_flory@fws.gov); 509-893-8003).

Sincerely,

A redacted signature block consisting of a light blue rectangular area with a small red tab on the left side containing the text "SIGN NAME".

*for* Brad Thompson, State Supervisor  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

cc:

NB Kitsap-Bangor, Silverdale, WA (C. Kunz)

NB Kitsap-Bangor, Silverdale, WA (A. Bella-Holden)

NAS Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA (J. Mosher)



## I.5 Government-to-Government Consultation

### I.5.1 Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/OEIS Notification Letters



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL BASE KITSAP  
120 SOUTH DEWEY STREET  
BREMERTON, WA 98314-5020

5090  
Ser PRB4/00967  
11 Aug 17

The Honorable [REDACTED] Chairman

Dear Chairman [REDACTED]:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING

In recognition of our government-to-government responsibilities, I am writing to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing a supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities conducted within the NWTT EIS/OEIS Study Area (hereafter referred to as the "Study Area"). Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation (referred to as "training and testing"). The Navy is requesting your comments on the scope of the analysis, including potential environmental issues, cultural resources, tribal treaty issues, and viable alternatives to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The Navy previously completed an EIS/OEIS in 2015, for which a Record of Decision was signed in October 2016, for at-sea training and testing activities occurring within the Study Area. The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS is being prepared to support ongoing and future activities conducted at sea within the Study Area beyond 2020. Proposed training and testing activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and are representative of activities the Navy has been conducting in the Study Area for decades.

The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will include an analysis of training and testing activities using new information available after the release of the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. As part of this process, the Navy will seek the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act to support ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities within the Study Area beyond 2020. The Navy will also complete Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act analysis and consultations with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. Additionally, the Navy will invite tribes to continue government-to-government consultation regarding tribal treaty rights.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS (Enclosure 1). The Study Area is comprised of established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING**

northeastern Pacific Ocean, including areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes air and water space within and outside Washington state waters, air and water space outside state waters of Oregon and Northern California, and Navy pierside locations where sonar maintenance and testing occur. In the supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy will only analyze those training and testing activities conducted at sea within the Study Area.

The Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. Activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the Navy can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, consistent with Congressional direction in section 5062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code. To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Conduct at-sea training and testing activities at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020; and
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

Public comments will be accepted during the 30-day scoping period beginning August 22, 2017 through September 21, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by **September 21, 2017** for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at [www.NWTEIS.com](http://www.NWTEIS.com), or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
3730 North Charles Porter Ave., Building 385  
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

If you would like additional information, or to receive a project briefing, please contact Mr. John Mosher at (360) 257-3234 or [john.g.mosher@navy.mil](mailto:john.g.mosher@navy.mil). Please help the Navy inform the community about the intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS/OEIS for at-sea training and testing in the Pacific Northwest by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

Sincerely,

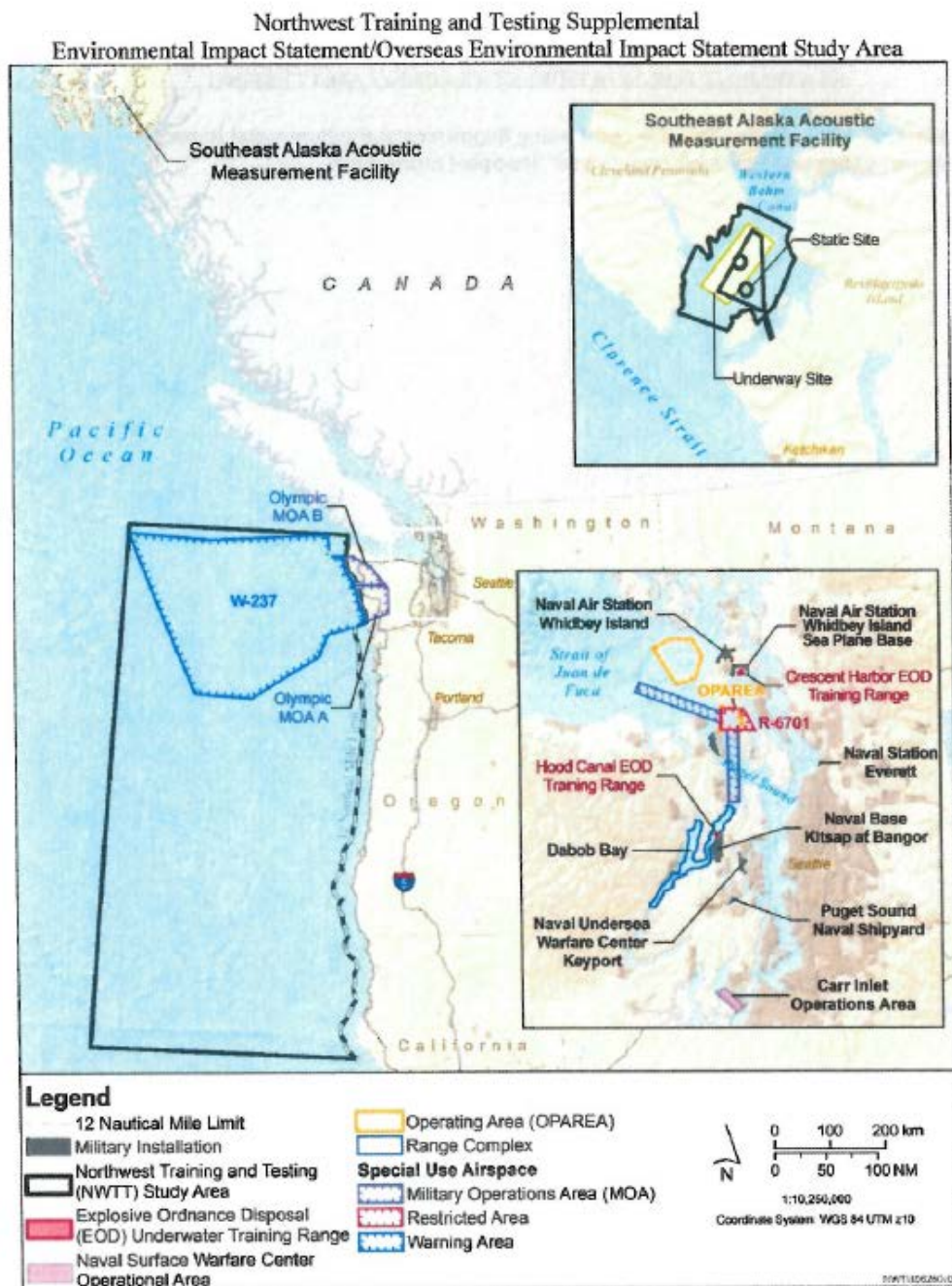


E. A. SCHRADER  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING

Enclosure: 1. Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact  
Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area.





Enclosure (1)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND  
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE  
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser PRW4/3035  
August 17, 2017

The Honorable [REDACTED]

Dear Chairman [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING

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The Navy previously completed an EIS/OEIS in 2015, for which a Record of Decision was signed in October 2016, for at-sea training and testing activities occurring within the Study Area. The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS is being prepared to support ongoing and future activities conducted at sea within the Study Area beyond 2020. Proposed training and testing activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and are representative of activities the Navy has been conducting in the Study Area for decades.

The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will include an analysis of training and testing activities using new information available after the release of the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. As part of this process, the Navy will seek the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act to support ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities within the Study Area beyond 2020. The Navy will also complete Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act analysis and consultations with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. Additionally, the Navy will invite tribes to continue government-to-government consultation regarding tribal treaty rights.

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5090  
Ser N465/3035  
August 17, 2017

northeastern Pacific Ocean, including areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes air and water space within and outside Washington state waters, air and water space outside state waters of Oregon and Northern California, and Navy pierside locations where sonar maintenance and testing occur. In the supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy will only analyze those training and testing activities conducted at sea within the Study Area.

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- Conduct at-sea training and testing activities at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020; and
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

Public comments will be accepted during the 30-day scoping period beginning August 22, 2017 through September 21, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by **September 21, 2017** for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com), or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: NWTTEIS Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
3730 North Charles Porter Ave., Building 385  
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

If you would like additional information, or to receive a project briefing, please contact Mr. John Mosher at (360) 257-3234 or [john.g.mosher@navy.mil](mailto:john.g.mosher@navy.mil). Please help the Navy inform the community about the intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS/OEIS for at-sea training and testing in the Pacific Northwest by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

Sincerely,

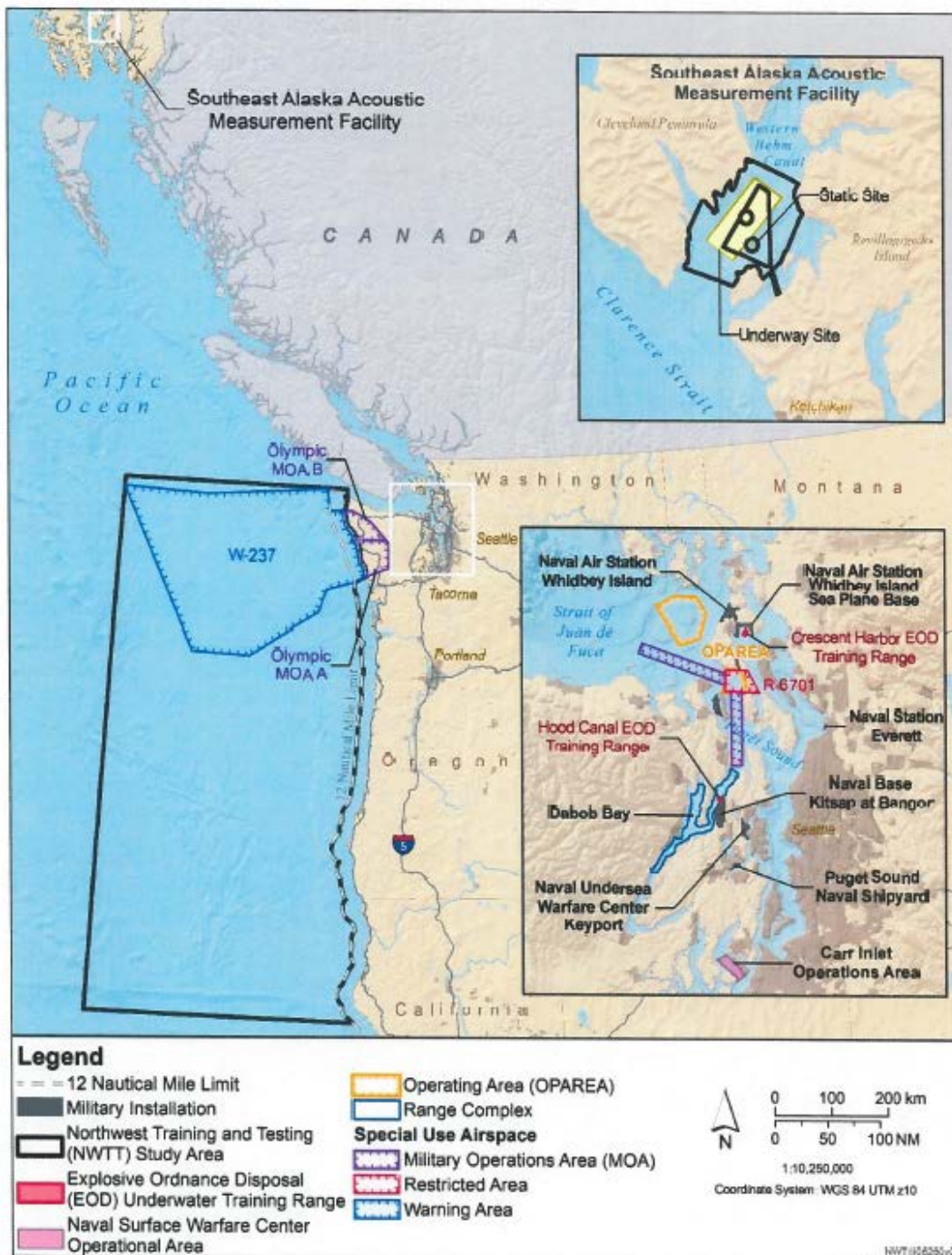


G. C. MOORE  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer


Enclosure: 1. Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area.



Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas  
Environmental Impact Statement Study Area



I.5.2 Invitation to Initiate Government-to-Government Consultation from Commander, Naval Base Kitsap

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                      |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5090<br>Ser PRB4/ 00288<br>6 Feb 18                                                                  |
| The Honorable [REDACTED] Chairman<br>[REDACTED]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                      |
| Dear Chairman [REDACTED]:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                      |
| SUBJECT: INVITATION TO INITIATE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT<br>CONSULTATION FOR U.S. NAVY NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING<br>ACTIVITIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| <p>In continuation of the Department of the Navy's government-to-government tribal consultation responsibilities, I would like to inform you that the Navy is preparing a Supplement to the 2015 Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) that analyzed the Navy's training and testing activities in the Northwest. Please find attached the Notice of Intent to study the environmental effects of this proposed action, as published in the Federal Register on August 22, 2017 (Enclosure 1). Additional information is available on the project website at <a href="http://nwtteis.com/">http://nwtteis.com/</a>. Also attached, please find the letter I sent to you in August, discussing the Notice of Intent to develop the Supplemental EIS/OEIS in August 2017 (Enclosure 2).</p> <p>Although the Supplement to the EIS/OEIS is in the preliminary stages of development, I would like to invite you to review the information provided below and on the project website and evaluate whether you believe there may be a potential for this action to significantly affect tribal treaty rights, resources, or lands. This invitation is made pursuant to Navy policies for government-to-government consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.</p> <p>The purpose of the proposed training activities is to ensure that the Navy accomplishes its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will assess the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities conducted within the Study Area beyond 2020. The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. As part of this process, the Navy will seek the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>The Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard conduct military readiness training and testing activities in waters and associated airspace of</p> |                                                                                                      |

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO INITIATE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT  
CONSULTATION FOR U.S. NAVY NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING  
ACTIVITIES

the Pacific Northwest. These designated areas include areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound and at Navy pierside locations (as contained within Enclosure 3). These areas have historically been used by the Navy for training and testing, with some activities dating back to 1914.

Training activities may include operating vehicles, aircraft, submarines, and ships; conducting weapons training; detecting and locating submarines and finding and removing in-water practice mines. Testing activities may include basic and applied scientific research and technology development, as well as testing, evaluation, and maintenance of missiles, torpedoes, radar, active and passive sonar systems, vessels, submarines, and aircraft.

Pursuant to Navy policies for American Indian/Alaska Native tribal government-to-government consultation, I would like to offer the opportunity to have the Navy brief you or your staff on the testing and training activities. If you believe there would be a potential to significantly affect tribal treaty rights or resources resulting from the implementation of the proposed action and would like to initiate Government-to-Government consultation, the Navy will continue consultation with you beyond the initial briefing.

If you have questions or concerns, or require further information please contact me directly at (360) 627-4000 or Edward.schrader@navy.mil, or contact my Tribal Liaison, Katherine Pollock by telephone at (360) 315-1162 or katherine.pollock@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



E. A. Schrader  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Intent  
2. Notice of Intent Letter  
3. Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental  
Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental  
Impact Statement Project Information Booklet



Any associated form(s) for this collection may be located within this same electronic docket and downloaded for review/testing. Follow the instructions at <http://www.regulations.gov> for submitting comments. Please submit comments on any given form identified by docket number, form number, and title.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the DSS Office of Information Management, Russell Knox Building, 27130 Telegraph Rd., Quantico, VA 22134 or email [dss.niss@mail.mil](mailto:dss.niss@mail.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Associated Form; and OMB Number: National Industrial Security System (NISS); OMB Control Number 0704-XXXX.

**Needs and Uses:** The information collection requirement is necessary for DSS to oversee the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) pursuant to Executive Order 12829. The National Industrial Security System (NISS) will become the repository of records related to the maintenance of information pertaining to contractor facility security clearances (FCL) and contractor capabilities to protect classified information in its possession.

**Affected Public:** Cleared contractor companies participating in the NISP.

**Annual Burden Hours:** 11,671.

**Number of Respondents:** 11,671.

**Responses per Respondent:** 1.

**Annual Responses:** 11,671.

**Average Burden per Response:** 60 minutes.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

Respondents are security professionals who provide information to DSS in order to process facility security clearances (FCL), report changes of the facility that may affect the FCL, and managing incident response. In addition to this standard processing, NISS will enable security staff to communicate with their DSS representative pursuant to requirement DoD 5220.22-M, National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual. The NISS will be an integrated automated solution that will facilitate efficient execution of the Agency's core mission. NISS will allow users to manage large amounts of information through increased automated workflows to ensure accuracy, create linkages in data, and close the gap of missing data elements.

Dated: August 16, 2017.

Aaron Siegel,  
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison  
Officer, Department of Defense.  
[FR Doc. 2017-17686 Filed 8-21-17; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Navy**

**Notice of Intent To Prepare a  
Supplemental Environmental Impact  
Statement/Overseas Environmental  
Impact Statement for Northwest  
Training and Testing**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of the Navy (DoN) announces its intent to prepare a supplement to the 2015 Final Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

**DATES:** Public comments will be accepted during the 30-day scoping period from August 22, 2017 to September 21, 2017. Public scoping meetings will not be held. However, public meetings are planned to occur following the release of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS in early 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** The DoN invites scoping comments on the NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS from all interested parties. Substantive comments may be provided by mail to the address below and through the project Web site at <http://nwtteis.com/>. Comments must be postmarked or received online by September 21, 2017 for consideration during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Mosher, (360) 257-3234, [john.g.mosher@navy.mil](mailto:john.g.mosher@navy.mil). Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, Attention: NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 3730 North Charles Porter Avenue, Building 385, Oak Harbor, Washington 98278-3500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DoN will assess the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities conducted within the NWT EIS/OEIS Study Area (hereafter known as the "Study Area") beyond 2020. Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and

evaluation (hereafter known as "testing"). The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will include an analysis of training and testing activities using new information available after the release of the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. Proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and are representative of training and testing activities the DoN has been conducting in the Study Area for decades.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. The Study Area is comprised of established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the northeastern Pacific Ocean, including areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes air and water space within and outside Washington state waters, air and water space outside state waters of Oregon and Northern California, and DoN pier-side locations where sound navigation and ranging (sonar) maintenance and testing occur. In the supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS, the DoN will only analyze those training and testing activities conducted at sea within the Study Area.

As part of this process, the DoN will seek the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act to support ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities within the Study Area beyond 2020.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6, the DoN will invite the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard to be cooperating agencies in preparation of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The DoN's lead action proponent is Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Additional action proponents include Naval Sea Systems Command and Naval Air Systems Command.

The DoN's Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. Activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. The Proposed Action does not alter the DoN's original purpose and need as discussed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure the DoN can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval

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forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, consistent with Congressional direction in section 5062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code. A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is considered the appropriate document, as there is recent scientific information including revised acoustic criteria to consider, in furtherance of NEPA, relevant to the environmental effects of the DoN's Proposed Action. The analysis will support Marine Mammal Protection Act authorization requests.

Proposed training and testing activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. In the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the DoN will analyze the proposed changes to the tempo and types of training and testing activities, accounting for the introduction of new technologies, the evolving nature of international events, advances in warfighting doctrine and procedures, and changes in the organization of vessels, aircraft, weapons systems, and DoN personnel. In the NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the DoN will reflect the compilation of training and testing activities required to fulfill the DoN's military readiness requirements beyond 2020, and therefore includes the analysis of newly proposed activities and changes to previously analyzed activities.

In the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the DoN will evaluate the potential environmental effects of a no action alternative and action alternatives. Resources to be evaluated include, but are not limited to, marine mammals, sea turtles, essential fish habitat, threatened and endangered species, and American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources.

The scoping process is used to identify public concerns and local issues to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Federal agencies, state agencies, local agencies, the public, and interested persons are encouraged to provide substantive comments to the DoN on environmental resources and issue areas of concern the commenter believes the DoN should consider.

Comments must be postmarked or received online by September 21, 2017 for consideration during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments can be mailed to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, Attention: NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 3730 North Charles Porter Avenue, Building 385, Oak Harbor, Washington 98278-3500. Comments can be submitted online via the project Web

site at <http://www.nwtteis.com/>. Also at this Web site, those interested in receiving electronic project updates can subscribe to receive notifications via email for key milestones throughout the environmental planning process.

Dated: August 16, 2017.

A.M. Nichols,  
Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate  
General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register  
Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-17616 Filed 8-21-17; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Information To Be Verified for the 2018–2019 Award Year

#### Correction

In notice document 2017-09167, appearing on pages 21204 through 21208, in the issue of Friday, May 5, 2017, make the following corrections:

1. On page 21207, in the second column, on the second line, the entry that reads "I certify that I \_\_\_\_", should read:

"I certify that I \_\_\_\_ am".

2. On the same page, in the same column, on the nineteenth line, the entry that reads "I certify that I \_\_\_\_", should read:

"I certify that I \_\_\_\_ am".

[FR Doc. G1-2017-09167 Filed 8-21-17; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 1301-08-D

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

[EERE-2017-BT-CRT-0054]

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Extension

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Information collection extension, with changes; notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) intends to extend with changes for three years with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Certification Reports, Compliance Statements, Application for a Test Procedure Waiver, and Recordkeeping for Consumer Products and Commercial/Industrial Equipment subject to Energy or Water Conservation Standards Package under OMB No.

1910-1400. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments and information are requested and will be accepted on or before October 23, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Alternatively, interested persons may submit comments, identified by docket number EERE-2017-BT-CRT-0054, by any of the following methods:

1. **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

2. **Email:** to [InfoCollection2017CRT0054@ee.doe.gov](mailto:InfoCollection2017CRT0054@ee.doe.gov). Include docket number EERE-2017-BT-CRT-0054 in the subject line of the message.

3. **Postal Mail:** Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, Mailstop EE-5B, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121. Telephone: (202) 287-1445. If possible, please submit all items on a compact disc ("CD"), in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

4. **Hand Delivery/Courier:** Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, 950 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024. Telephone: (202) 287-1445. If possible, please submit all items on a CD, in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

No telefacsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

**Docket:** The docket for this activity, which includes Federal Register notices, comments, and other supporting documents/materials, is available for review at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All documents in the docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index. However, some documents listed in the index,



**I.5.3 Invitation to Initiate Government-to-Government Consultation from Commander, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island**



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND  
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE  
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

5090  
Ser N44/0464  
February 7, 2018

The Honorable [REDACTED]

Dear Chairman [REDACTED]

**SUBJECT: INVITATION TO INITIATE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT  
CONSULTATION FOR U.S. NAVY NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING  
ACTIVITIES**

In recognition of the Department of the Navy's government-to-government responsibilities, I would like to inform you that the Navy is preparing a Supplement to the 2015 Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) that analyzed the Navy's training and testing activities in the Northwest. Please find attached the Notice of Intent to study the environmental effects of this proposed action, as published in the Federal Register on August 22, 2017 (Enclosure 1). Additional information is available on the project website at <http://nwtteis.com/>. Also attached, please find the letter we sent to you in August, discussing the Notice of Intent to develop the Supplemental EIS/OEIS in August 2017 (Enclosure 2).

Although the Supplement to the EIS/OEIS is in the preliminary stages of development, I would like to invite you to review the information provided below and on the project website and evaluate whether you believe there may be a potential for this action to significantly affect tribal treaty harvest rights, resources, or lands. This invitation is made pursuant to Federal Indian Policy and the Navy's policy for Government-to-Government consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.

The purpose of the proposed training activities is to ensure that the Navy accomplishes its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will assess the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities conducted within the Study Area beyond 2020. The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. As part of this process, the Navy will seek the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.

The Navy conducts military readiness training and testing activities in waters and associated airspace of the Pacific Northwest. These designated areas include portions of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Washington, Oregon, and California, in areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound, and at Navy pierside locations (as contained within Enclosure 3). These areas have historically been used by the Navy for training and testing, with some activities dating back to 1914.

5090  
Ser N44/0464  
February 7, 2018

Training activities may include operating vehicles, aircraft, submarines, and ships; conducting weapons training; detecting and locating submarines and finding and removing in-water practice mines. Testing activities may include basic and applied scientific research and technology development, as well as testing, evaluation, and maintenance of missiles, torpedoes, radar, active and passive sonar systems, vessels, submarines, and aircraft.

Pursuant to the Navy's policy for American Indian/Alaska Native tribal Government-to-Government consultation, I would like to offer the opportunity to have the Navy brief you or your staff on the testing and training activities. If you believe there would be a potential to significantly affect tribal treaty rights or resources resulting from the implementation of the proposed action and would like to initiate Government-to-Government consultation, the Navy will continue consultation with your tribe beyond the initial briefing.

If you have questions or concerns, or require further information please contact me directly at (360) 257-2037 or [geoffrey.moore@navy.mil](mailto:geoffrey.moore@navy.mil), or the Project Manager, John Mosher at (360) 257-3234 or [john.g.mosher@navy.mil](mailto:john.g.mosher@navy.mil).

Sincerely,



G. C. MOORE  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Intent  
2. Notice of Intent Letter  
3. Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Project Information Booklet.



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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the DSS Office of Information Management, Russell Knox Building, 27130 Telegraph Rd., Quantico, VA 22134 or email [dss.niss@mail.mil](mailto:dss.niss@mail.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Associated Form; and OMB Number: National Industrial Security System (NISS); OMB Control Number 0704-XXXX.

**Needs and Uses:** The information collection requirement is necessary for DSS to oversee the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) pursuant to Executive Order 12829. The National Industrial Security System (NISS) will become the repository of records related to the maintenance of information pertaining to contractor facility security clearances (FCL) and contractor capabilities to protect classified information in its possession.

**Affected Public:** Cleared contractor companies participating in the NISP.

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**Number of Respondents:** 11,671.

**Responses per Respondent:** 1.

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Dated: August 16, 2017.

Aaron Siegel,  
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison  
Officer, Department of Defense.  
[FR Doc. 2017-17686 Filed 8-21-17; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Navy**

**Notice of Intent To Prepare a  
Supplemental Environmental Impact  
Statement/Overseas Environmental  
Impact Statement for Northwest  
Training and Testing**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of the Navy (DoN) announces its intent to prepare a supplement to the 2015 Final Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Mosher, (360) 257-3234, [john.g.mosher@navy.mil](mailto:john.g.mosher@navy.mil). Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, Attention: NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 3730 North Charles Porter Avenue, Building 385, Oak Harbor, Washington 98278-3500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DoN will assess the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and future at-sea military readiness activities conducted within the NWT EIS/OEIS Study Area (hereafter known as the "Study Area") beyond 2020. Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and

evaluation (hereafter known as "testing"). The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will include an analysis of training and testing activities using new information available after the release of the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. Proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and are representative of training and testing activities the DoN has been conducting in the Study Area for decades.

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The DoN's lead action proponent is Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Additional action proponents include Naval Sea Systems Command and Naval Air Systems Command.

The DoN's Proposed Action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the Study Area. Activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species protective mitigation measures. The Proposed Action does not alter the DoN's original purpose and need as discussed in the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS.

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In the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the DoN will evaluate the potential environmental effects of a no action alternative and action alternatives. Resources to be evaluated include, but are not limited to, marine mammals, sea turtles, essential fish habitat, threatened and endangered species, and American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources.

The scoping process is used to identify public concerns and local issues to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Federal agencies, state agencies, local agencies, the public, and interested persons are encouraged to provide substantive comments to the DoN on environmental resources and issue areas of concern the commenter believes the DoN should consider.

Comments must be postmarked or received online by September 21, 2017 for consideration during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments can be mailed to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, Attention: NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 3730 North Charles Porter Avenue, Building 385, Oak Harbor, Washington 98278-3500. Comments can be submitted online via the project Web

site at <http://www.nwtta.com/>. Also at this Web site, those interested in receiving electronic project updates can subscribe to receive notifications via email for key milestones throughout the environmental planning process.

Dated: August 16, 2017.

A.M. Nichols,  
Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate  
General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register  
Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-17616 Filed 8-21-17; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Information To Be Verified for the 2018-2019 Award Year

#### Correction

In notice document 2017-09167, appearing on pages 21204 through 21208, in the issue of Friday, May 5, 2017, make the following corrections:

1. On page 21207, in the second column, on the second line, the entry that reads "I certify that I \_\_\_", should read:

"I certify that I \_\_\_ am".

2. On the same page, in the same column, on the nineteenth line, the entry that reads "I certify that I \_\_\_", should read:

"I certify that I \_\_\_ am".

[FR Doc. G1-2017-09167 Filed 8-21-17; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 1301-08-D

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

[EERE-2017-BT-CRT-0054]

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Extension

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Information collection extension, with changes; notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) intends to extend with changes for three years with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Certification Reports, Compliance Statements, Application for a Test Procedure Waiver, and Recordkeeping for Consumer Products and Commercial/Industrial Equipment subject to Energy or Water Conservation Standards Package under OMB No.

1910-1400. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments and information are requested and will be accepted on or before October 23, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Alternatively, interested persons may submit comments, identified by docket number EERE-2017-BT-CRT-0054, by any of the following methods:

1. **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

2. **Email:** to [InfoCollection2017CRT0054@ee.doe.gov](mailto:InfoCollection2017CRT0054@ee.doe.gov). Include docket number EERE-2017-BT-CRT-0054 in the subject line of the message.

3. **Postal Mail:** Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, Mailstop EE-5B, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121. Telephone: (202) 287-1445. If possible, please submit all items on a compact disc ("CD"), in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

4. **Hand Delivery/Courier:** Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, 950 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024. Telephone: (202) 287-1445. If possible, please submit all items on a CD, in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

No telefacsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

**Docket:** The docket for this activity, which includes Federal Register notices, comments, and other supporting documents/materials, is available for review at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All documents in the docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index. However, some documents listed in the index,



I.5.4 Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS Notification Letters



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL BASE KITSAP  
129 SOUTH DEWEY STREET  
BREMERTON, WA 98314-5020

5090  
Ser PRB4/ 00369  
20 Mar 19

The Honorable [REDACTED]

Dear Chairwoman [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) has prepared a draft supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to reassess the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting proposed ongoing and future military readiness activities within the NWTT Study Area, referred to as the "Study Area." Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities, referred to as "training and testing." The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

In October 2015, the Navy completed an EIS/OEIS for training and testing activities occurring within the Study Area from 2015 through 2020, for which a Record of Decision was signed in October 2016. The supplement to the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS supports proposed ongoing and future activities conducted at sea and in associated airspace within the Study Area beyond 2020. Proposed activities are similar to those conducted in the Study Area for decades and analyzed in the 2015 document.

In the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated new, relevant information, such as more recent marine mammal density data and new scientific information, and updated the environmental analyses as appropriate. The Navy prepared the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS to support the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 analysis, and the Navy is not proposing to change or expand the Study Area. The Study Area is comprised of established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the northeastern Pacific Ocean, including areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes air and water space within and outside Washington state waters and established special use airspace, Navy pier side and harbor locations within Washington state waters, air, and water space outside the state waters of Oregon and Northern California (Enclosure

1). In the supplement, the Navy analyzed only those training and testing activities conducted at sea and in associated airspace within the Study Area.

The Navy's Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities within the Study Area beyond 2020. These activities continue to include the use of active sound navigation and ranging, known as sonar, and explosives while employing marine species mitigation measures. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities to ensure the Navy can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, consistent with Congressional direction in section 8062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Conduct training and testing activities, at sea and in associated airspace, at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020.
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

In the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy determined that training and testing activities could temporarily impede tribal access to portions of usual and accustomed fishing grounds; however, impacts are not expected to have a measureable effect on the availability of marine resources, and the potential for loss of or damage to fishing gear is low.

The Navy will hold eight open house meetings to provide information, answer questions, and give participants an opportunity to comment on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Attendees may arrive at any time between 5 and 8 p.m., as there will not be a presentation or formal oral comment session. A stenographer will be available to facilitate one-on-one oral comments; written comments can be submitted at any time during the meetings.

Concurrent with the National Environmental Policy Act public involvement process, the Navy is identifying additional consulting parties to participate in the Section 106 process under the National Historic Preservation Act. During each of the open house meetings in Washington State, an information station on the Section 106 process will be available.

Open house meetings will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., at the following locations:

**Washington:**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019  
**Location:** Hampton Inn Seattle/Everett Downtown Salish Room  
2931 W. Marine View Drive  
Everett, Wash.

**Date:** Thursday, April 25, 2019  
**Location:** Ridgetop Middle School Cafeteria  
10600 Hillsboro Drive NW  
Silverdale, Wash.

**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019  
**Location:** Naval Elks Lodge #353  
131 E. First St.  
Port Angeles, Wash.

**Oregon:**

**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019  
**Location:** Astoria High School Student Commons  
1001 W. Marine Drive  
Astoria, Ore.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019  
**Location:** Newport Performing Arts Center Lobby  
777 W. Olive St.  
Newport, Ore.

**Northern California:**

**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019  
**Location:** Red Lion Hotel Eureka Ballroom  
1929 Fourth St.  
Eureka, Calif.

**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019  
**Location:** Dana Grey Elementary School Multipurpose Room  
1197 Chestnut St.  
Fort Bragg, Calif.

**Southeastern Alaska:**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019  
**Location:** Ted Ferry Civic Center Naha and Alava Bays  
888 Venetia Ave.  
Ketchikan, Alaska

To review the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and for additional project information, including details on the key differences between the 2015 NWT Final EIS/OEIS and the 2019 Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, please visit the project website at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com).

The Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS is also available at the following public locations:

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- Everett Main Library
- Gig Harbor Library
- Jefferson County Library, Port Hadlock
- Kitsap Regional Library, Poulsbo
- Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way, Bremerton
- North Olympic Library System, Forks Branch
- Lopez Island Library
- Oak Harbor Public Library
- Port Angeles Main Library
- Port Townsend Public Library
- San Juan Island Library
- Timberland Regional Library, Aberdeen
- Timberland Regional Library, Hoquiam

**Oregon:**

- Astoria Public Library
- Driftwood Public Library
- Newport Public Library
- Oregon State University, Guin Library Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Tillamook Main Library

**Northern California:**

- Fort Bragg Branch Library
- Humboldt County Public Library, Arcata Branch Library
- Humboldt County Public Library, Eureka Main Library
- Redwood Coast Senior Center

**Southeastern Alaska:**

- Juneau Public Library, Downtown Branch
- Ketchikan Public Library

The Navy will accept comments throughout the comment period from March 29, 2019, to May 28, 2019. All comments must be postmarked or received online by **May 28, 2019**, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. All comments submitted during the comment period will become part of the public record, and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.



Comments may be submitted online at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com), at the open house meetings, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
3730 N. Charles Porter Ave.  
Building 385  
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

If you would like additional information or to receive a project briefing, please contact Ms. Jackie Queen, NWTTC Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, at [projectmanager@nwtteis.com](mailto:projectmanager@nwtteis.com).

Please help the Navy inform the community about the availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and open house meetings by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

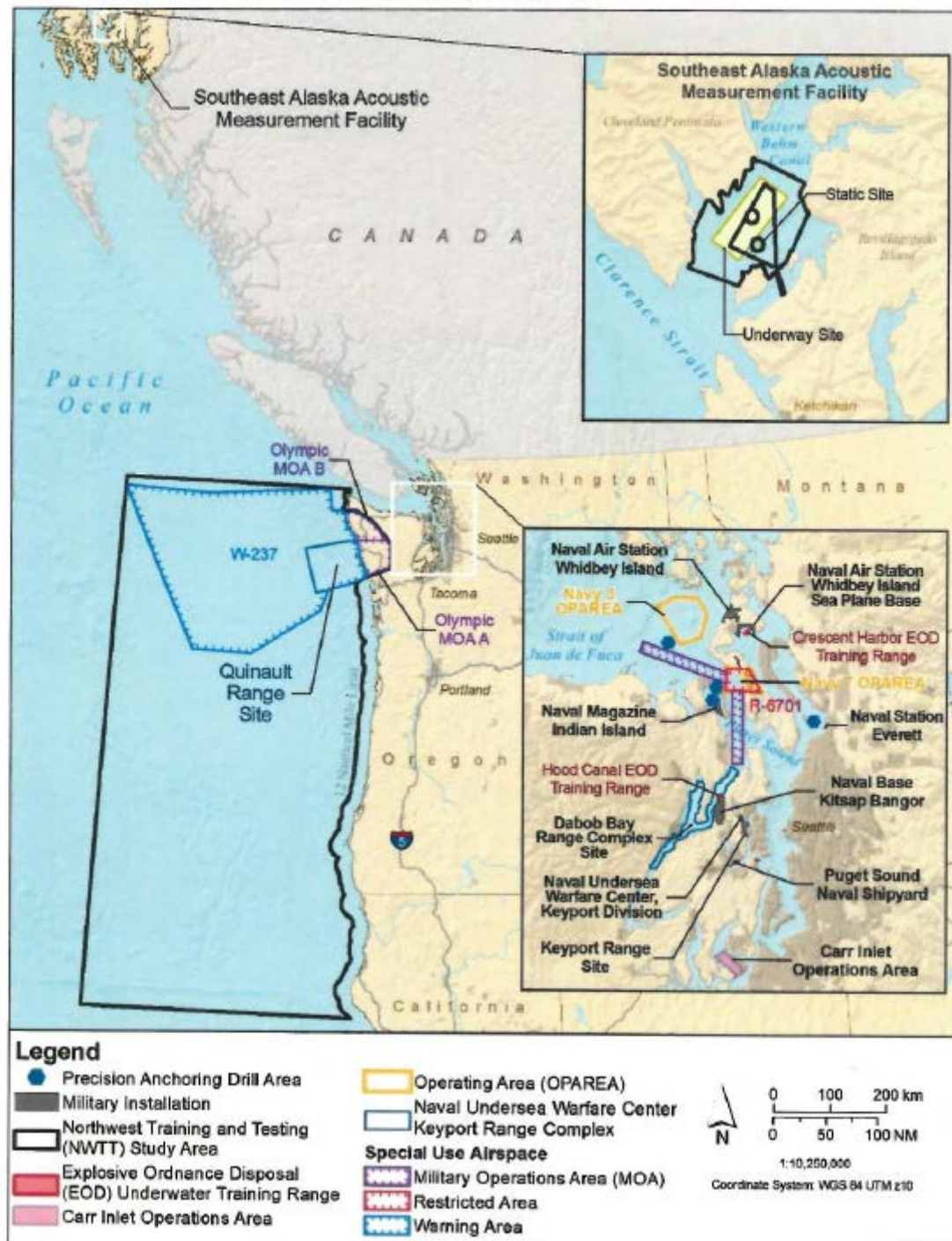
Sincerely,



E. A. Schrader  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

Enclosure: 1, Northwest Training and Testing Study Area

Enclosure 1: Northwest Training and Testing Study Area



Enclosure (1)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND  
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVE  
OAK HARBOR WASHINGTON 98278-5000

5090  
Ser PRW4/600  
MAR 21 2019

The Honorable [REDACTED]

Dear Chairperson [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

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The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 analysis, and the Navy is not proposing to change or expand the Study Area. The Study Area is comprised of established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the northeastern Pacific Ocean, including areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes air and water space within and outside Washington state waters and

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Ser PRW4/600  
MAR 21 2019

established special use airspace, Navy pier side and harbor locations within Washington state waters, air, and water space outside the state waters of Oregon and Northern California (Enclosure 1). In the supplement, the Navy analyzed only those training and testing activities conducted at sea and in associated airspace within the Study Area.

The Navy's Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities within the Study Area beyond 2020. These activities continue to include the use of active sound navigation and ranging, known as sonar, and explosives while employing marine species mitigation measures. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities to ensure the Navy can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, consistent with Congressional direction in section 8062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Conduct training and testing activities, at sea and in associated airspace, at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020.
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

In the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy determined that training and testing activities could temporarily impede tribal access to portions of usual and accustomed fishing grounds; however, impacts are not expected to have a measureable effect on the availability of marine resources, and the potential for loss of or damage to fishing gear is low.

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Ser PRW4/600  
**MAR 21 2019**

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Everett, WA

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**Location:** Ridgetop Middle School Cafeteria  
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Silverdale, WA

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**Location:** Naval Elks Lodge #353  
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Port Angeles, WA

**OREGON**

**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019  
**Location:** Astoria High School Student Commons  
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Astoria, OR

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**Location:** Newport Performing Arts Center Lobby  
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Newport, OR

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**Location:** Red Lion Hotel Eureka Ballroom  
1929 Fourth St.  
Eureka, CA

**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019  
**Location:** Dana Grey Elementary School Multipurpose Room  
1197 Chestnut St.  
Fort Bragg, CA

5090  
Ser PRW4/600  
**MAR 21 2019**

### **SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019  
**Location:** Ted Ferry Civic Center Naha and Alaya Bays  
888 Venetia Ave.  
Ketchikan, AK

To review the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and for additional project information, including details on the key differences between the 2015 NWTTF Final EIS/OEIS and the 2019 Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, please visit the project website at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com).

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- Lopez Island Library
- Oak Harbor Public Library
- Port Angeles Main Library
- Port Townsend Public Library
- San Juan Island Library
- Timberland Regional Library, Aberdeen
- Timberland Regional Library, Hoquiam

#### **OREGON**

- Astoria Public Library
- Driftwood Public Library
- Newport Public Library
- Oregon State University, Guin Library Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Tillamook Main Library

#### **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

- Fort Bragg Branch Library
- Humboldt County Public Library, Arcata Branch Library
- Humboldt County Public Library, Eureka Main Library
- Redwood Coast Senior Center

5090  
Ser PRW4/600  
MAR 21 2019

**SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA**

- Juneau Public Library, Downtown Branch
- Ketchikan Public Library

The Navy will accept comments throughout the comment period from March 29, 2019, to May 28, 2019. All comments must be postmarked or received online by **May 28, 2019**, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. All comments submitted during the comment period will become part of the public record, and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.


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Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
3730 N. Charles Porter Ave.  
Building 385  
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

If you would like additional information or to receive a project briefing, please contact Ms. Jackie Queen, NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, at [projectmanager@nwtteis.com](mailto:projectmanager@nwtteis.com).

Please help the Navy inform the community about the availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and open house meetings by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

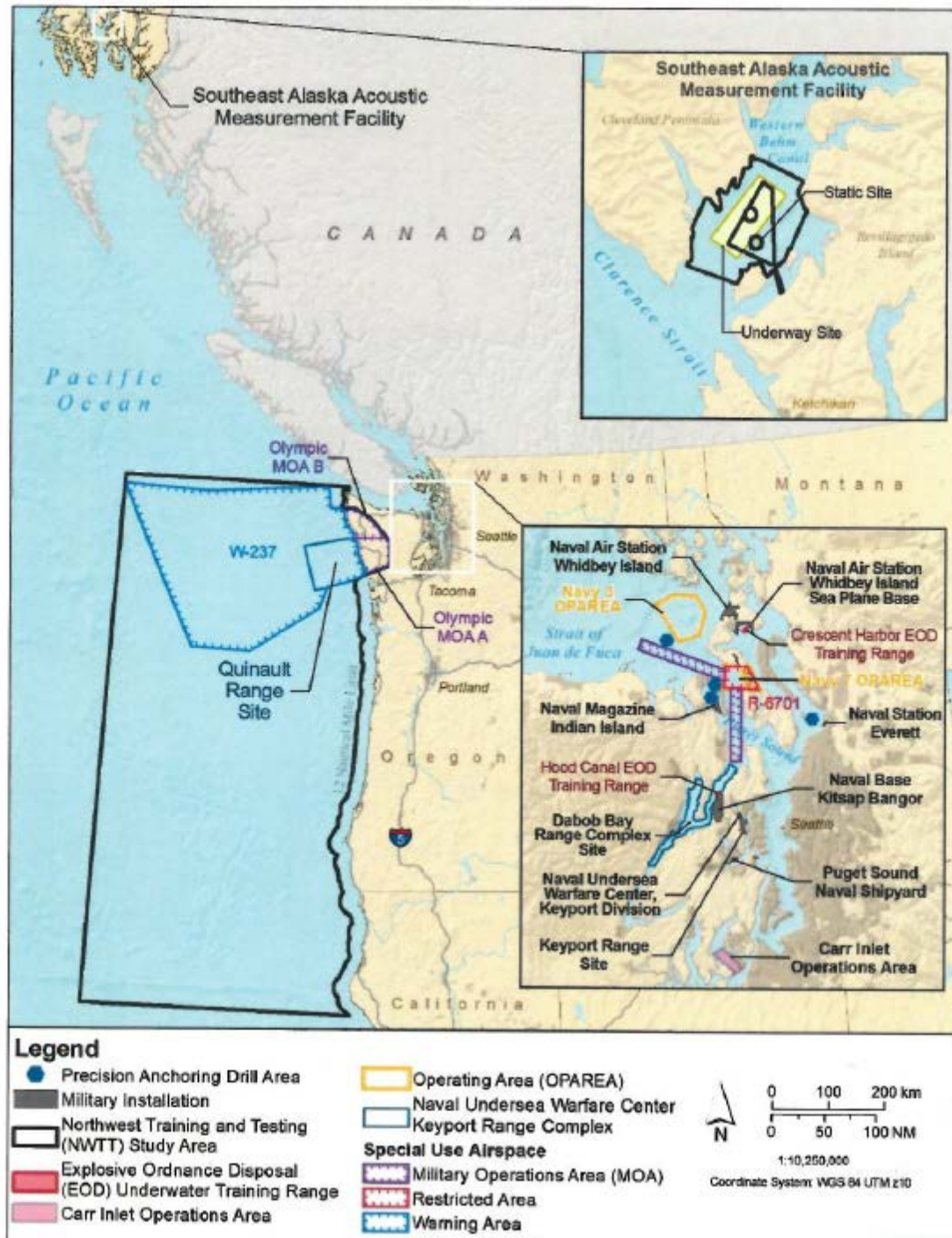
Sincerely,

  
M. L. ARNY  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

Enclosure: 1. Northwest Training and Testing Study Area



Enclosure 1: Northwest Training and Testing Study Area



Enclosure (1)



## I.6 Coastal Zone Management Act

### I.6.1 Negative Determination for the State of California, Navy Transmittal Letter



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N465/0605  
May 13, 2020

Larry Simon  
Manager, Federal Consistency Unit  
Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Dear Mr. Simon:

SUBJECT: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT NEGATIVE DETERMINATION FOR  
THE NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

Enclosed please find the Department of the Navy's Negative Determination under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (16 United States Code 1456), as implemented by the provisions of 15 Code of Federal Regulations Section 930.35.

The Navy is proposing to continue training and testing activities off the California coast, outside the California coastal zone beyond 2020. These training and testing activities are necessary to achieve and maintain military readiness as articulated in the Supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). A notice of the Supplemental Draft EIS/OEIS was provided to your office by letter dated March 22, 2019. Additional information is available on the project website at <http://nwtteis.com/>.

The NWT area extends offshore from the states of Washington, Oregon, and northern California (Humboldt and Del Norte Counties) with the vast majority of activities occurring offshore of the state of Washington. The Navy submitted a separate Consistency Determination to the state of Washington, as well as a Negative Determination to the State of Oregon. The Navy determined that the proposed action would have no reasonably foreseeable effects to California's coastal uses or resources, as all activities would occur greater than 12 nautical miles from shore, with most expected to continue to occur greater than 50 nautical miles from shore.

The activities proposed to occur off the coast of California are similar in type and level of intensity to those covered in a Negative Determination submitted for the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS, for which the California Coastal Commission issued a

5090  
Ser N465/0605  
May 13, 2020

concurrence on December 22, 2009 (ND-066-09) and again for the 2015 NWT EIS/OEIS on June 15, 2015 (ND-0018-15). As recommended in your June 15, 2015 letter, the Navy has proposed additional mitigation measures to protect marine species identified within the enclosure.

If you would like additional information, please contact Ms. Jackie Queen, NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, at [jackie.queen@navy.mil](mailto:jackie.queen@navy.mil).

Sincerely,

MCNAIR.DANIEL.AN  
THONY.1166125894

Digitally signed by  
MCNAIR.DANIEL.ANTHONY.1166125894  
Date: 2020.05.14 07:11:10 -10700

D. A. MCNAIR  
Director, Environmental Readiness Division  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: CZMA Negative Determination for California

I.6.2 California Coastal Commission Concurrence Letter

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STATE OF CALIFORNIA - NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR                                                              |
| <b>CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION</b><br>45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000<br>SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219<br>VOICE (415) 904-5200<br>FAX (415) 904-5400                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
| July 10, 2020                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                     |
| <p>D.A. McNair, Director<br/>Environmental Readiness<br/>Department of the Navy<br/>Commander, United States Pacific Fleet<br/>250 Makalapa Dr.<br/>Pearl Harbor, HA 96860-3131</p> <p>Subject: Negative Determination <b>ND-0018-20</b> (Navy Training Activities, Northwest Training and Testing, offshore of northern California)</p> <p>Dear Director McNair:</p> <p>The Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination. The Navy proposes to continue conducting components of its Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) activities offshore of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties in northern California. The purpose of these activities is to ensure that the Navy can safely and successfully train with and test sensors and weapon systems used in military missions and combat operations. NWTT activities are currently authorized for seven years and take place mostly offshore of the states of Oregon and Washington. Most of the activities would occur offshore of Washington where Navy unit homeports are located. Under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, the Navy has submitted separate consistency or negative determinations to the Washington, Oregon, and California coastal management programs.</p> <p>NWTT activities would take place at least 12 nautical miles offshore of northern California, with the majority of activities occurring at least 50 nautical miles from shore. Training and testing activities are sometimes conducted during transit of naval vessels through waters offshore of California. Activities with potential adverse effects to coastal resources include at-sea sonar testing, non-explosive torpedo testing, and undersea warfare testing. Activities offshore of northern California would consist of: (1) two surface firing training events using non-explosive ordnance per year; (2) approximately one hour of mid-frequency sonar training per year; (3) approximately 30 hours of airspace training per year; and (4) one active and passive sonar tracking event using sonobuoys per year. The northern California offshore activities, if conducted at all, would consist of less than one percent of the training and testing activities proposed for the Washington, Oregon, and California study area.</p> |                                                                                     |



ND-0018-20 (Department of the Navy)

The Navy proposes to implement standard operating procedures and mitigation measures to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on coastal resources. Mitigation measures for marine life include using trained lookouts to monitor for marine species whenever stressors or disturbance as part of NWTT activities are expected; not conducting explosive and non-explosive activities within 50 nautical miles from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area; not conducting non-explosive large caliber gunnery and bombing training activities within 20 nautical miles from shore; and not using mid-frequency active sonar or conducting explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing within the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area. In addition, the Navy will notify ships and aircraft to the possible increased density of Southern Resident killer whales, humpback whales, and gray whales during periods of natural seasonal activity. Information gathered from these notifications will be used along with the Navy's visual monitoring to create whale mitigation zones for NWTT activities. Due to the infrequency and geographical restrictions of these activities, impacts to marine mammals are predicted to be small. There are also no predicted impacts to biological productivity, water quality, or fishing activities for the California coastal zone.

Under the federal consistency regulations (15 CFR Section 930.35(a)), a negative determination can be submitted for an activity that will not have coastal effects and "which is the same as or is similar to activities for which consistency determinations have been prepared in the past." The Commission staff **agrees** that the proposed component of NWTT activities, along with the added mitigation measures, would not affect California coastal zone resources. This project can be considered the same as or similar to the previous NWTT activities concurred with by the Executive Director in ND-066-09 and ND-0018-15.

Finally, and as we noted in our negative determination concurrences in 2009 and 2015, our concurrence with this negative determination is not in any way meant to convey the message that the Commission's concerns over the use of mid-frequency sonar have been diminished, as expressed in its actions on Navy SOCAL consistency determinations (CD-008-13, CD-049-08, and CD-086-06). The reason this NWTT matter is being treated administratively is rather due to the fact that the sonar use off California would be limited to only a few hours per year, compared to the over 19,000 hours per year of sonar use off southern California.

Thus, while we are agreeing with your negative determination ND-0018-20, please note that we do not intend the Navy to be left with the impression that the Commission has changed its position over the need for additional mitigation measures to protect marine mammals and sea turtles from the effects of mid-frequency sonar (as discussed in detail in the Commission's findings in the above-referenced consistency determinations). We continue to believe additional measures as described in those findings are warranted, and we continue to urge the Navy to implement (and NMFS to require) them.

With that understanding, we **concur** with your negative determination for the NWTT activities made pursuant to 15 CFR Section 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Alexis Barrera at [Alexis.Barrera@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Alexis.Barrera@coastal.ca.gov) should you have any questions regarding this matter.

ND-0018-20 (Department of the Navy)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LARRY SIMON". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

(for) JOHN AINSWORTH  
Executive Director

cc: CCC – North Coast District

I.6.3 Negative Determination for the State of Oregon, Navy Transmittal Letter



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N465/0610  
May 14, 2020

Deanna Caracciolo  
Coastal State-Federal Relations Coordinator  
Oregon Coastal Management Program  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301-2540

Dear Ms. Caracciolo:

SUBJECT: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT NEGATIVE DETERMINATION FOR  
THE NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

Enclosed please find the Department of the Navy's Negative Determination under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (16 United States Code 1456), as implemented by the provisions of 15 Code of Federal Regulations Section 930.35.

The Navy is proposing to continue training and testing activities off the Oregon coast, outside the Oregon coastal zone beyond 2020. These training and testing activities are necessary to achieve and maintain military readiness as articulated in the Supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). A notice of the Supplemental Draft EIS/OEIS was provided to your office by letter dated March 22, 2019. Additional information is available on the project website at <http://nwtteis.com/>.

The NWTT area extends offshore from the states of Washington, Oregon, and northern California with the vast majority of activities occurring offshore of the state of Washington. The Navy submitted a separate Consistency Determination to the state of Washington, as well as a Negative Determination to the State of California. The Navy determined that the proposed action would have no reasonably foreseeable effects to Oregon's coastal uses or resources, as all activities would occur greater than 12 nautical miles from shore, with most expected to continue to occur greater than 50 nautical miles from shore.

The activities proposed to occur off the coast of Oregon are similar in type and level of intensity to those covered in a Negative Determination submitted for the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS, for which the Department of Land Conservation and

5090  
Ser N465/0610  
May 14, 2020

Development issued a concurrence on November 3, 2009 and again for the 2015 NWTT EIS/OEIS on June 3, 2015.

If you would like additional information, please contact Ms. Jackie Queen, NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, at [jackie.queen@navy.mil](mailto:jackie.queen@navy.mil).

Sincerely,

MCNAIR.DANIEL.ANT  
HONY.1166125894  
D. A. MCNAIR  
Director, Environmental Readiness Division  
By direction of the Commander

Digitally signed by  
MCNAIR.DANIEL.ANT.HONY.1166125894  
Date: 2020.05.14 12:22:03 -10'00'

Enclosure: CZMA Negative Determination for Oregon



I.6.4 Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development Concurrence Letter



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Oregon Coastal Management Program**  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street, Suite 150  
Salem, Oregon 97301-2540  
Phone (503) 373-0050  
FAX (503) 378-6033  
[www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP)

June 24, 2020

Department of the Navy  
United States Pacific Fleet  
250 Makalapa Drive  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3131

Re: Coastal Zone Management Act Negative Determination  
Project: Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact  
Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement  
Agency: Department of the Navy  
Location: Coast wide, outside of the coastal zone  
(Waters more than 12 nautical miles off the Oregon coast)

Dear Ms. Queen,

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) received a Negative Determination provided by the Department of Navy, United States Pacific Fleet, on May 14, 2020. DLCD has reviewed the action, as described in the determination materials, for consistency with the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP). As a federal agency activity, the proposed action is subject to consistency review pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and attendant regulations of 15 CFR Part 930, Subpart C.

The Navy is proposing to continue to conduct selected training and testing activities off the Oregon coast, outside the Oregon coastal zone. DLCD received a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (Volume 1 & 2) on May 20, 2020 from <https://www.nwtteis.com/>. The training activities proposed to occur off the coast of Oregon are similar in type and level of intensity to those covered in previous Negative Determinations for the Northwest Training Range Complex, for which DLCD issued concurrences for on November 3, 2009 and June 3, 2015. The Navy determined that the proposed action would have no reasonably foreseeable effects to Oregon's coastal uses or resources, as all training and testing activities would occur greater than 12 nautical miles from shore, with most expected to occur greater than 50 nautical miles from shore. Additionally, less than ten percent of all activities would occur off the Oregon coast.

**Consistency Decision**

DLCD **concurs** with the Navy's negative determination that the proposed project, as described in the negative determination and environmental impact assessment, will have no reasonably foreseeable effect to Oregon's coastal uses or resources.

**Future Determinations**

Pursuant to 15 Title CFR §930.35(b), an evaluation of all state enforceable policies is required for an appropriate evaluation of negative determinations. Although DLCD concurs with the Navy's current negative determination, future federal consistency determinations should include a more robust enforceable policy analysis. Early coordination between a federal agency and DLCD prior to submission of a consistency determination can aid in the creation of this enforceable policy evaluation and reduce the potential need for extension of the review period or postponement of the activity.

If you have any questions regarding this coastal zone management consistency finding or the consistency



review process, please contact me at 503-934-0026 or at [deanna.caracciolo@state.or.us](mailto:deanna.caracciolo@state.or.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deanna Caracciolo".

Deanna Caracciolo  
Coastal State-Federal Relations Coordinator

CC: John Mosher (Navy)

I.6.5 Consistency Determination for the State of Washington, Navy Transmittal Letter



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

Ser N46B/0639

May 28, 2020

Ms. Terry Swanson  
Federal Permit Manager  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Swanson:

SUBJECT: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION  
FOR THE NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

In accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, and 15 Code of Federal Regulations Section 930, enclosed is the Department of the Navy's Consistency Determination for activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) area that may affect Washington State coastal zone resources or use.

On September 11, 2015, the Washington State Department of Ecology issued a conditional concurrence for NWTT activities contained in the 2015 NWTT Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) under the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP).

The Navy's March 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS proposes the continuation of activities generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and are representative of training and testing activities conducted in the study area for several decades. A notice of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS was provided to your office by letter dated March 22, 2019. Additional information is available on the project website at <http://nwtteis.com/>.

The Navy has determined that the activities described in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS are consistent with the enforceable policies of the Washington CZMP. The enclosed consistency determination provides details of the proposed NWTT activities.

5090  
Ser N46B/0639  
May 28, 2020

If you would like additional information, please contact Mr. John Mosher, U.S. Pacific Fleet NWTT Program Manager, at (360) 257-3234/email: john.g.mosher@navy.mil or Ms. Jackie Queen, NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, at email: jackie.queen@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



T. C. LIBERATORE  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: Washington Consistency Determination

I.6.6 Washington State Conditional Concurrence Letter



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000  
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

August 28, 2020

Alexander Hutchison  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
United States Pacific Fleet  
250 Makalapa Drive  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3131

**Re: Ecology's Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Conditional Concurrence for the U.S. Navy's NW T&T SEIS**

Dear Captain Hutchison:

The state of Washington abounds in natural, breathtaking beauty and possesses a rich bounty of cultural, economic, and environmental resources. The Pacific Northwest is also an important military location for our national defense. For almost 180 years, the U.S. Navy has operated in the Pacific Northwest. For decades, the state has worked in close collaboration with the Navy to help protect Washington's air, land, and water. We appreciate the Navy's vitally important work safeguarding our national security and maritime shipping trade while working with the state to protect our environmental resources.

On June 1, 2020, the U.S. Navy submitted a Consistency Determination to the Washington State Department of Ecology seeking confirmation that the Navy's draft Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of Washington's federally-approved Coastal Zone Management Program. These policies include state laws and regulations governing shoreline and ocean management, and clean water and air.

The state's original decision was due July 31, 2020, and the Navy granted an extension until August 15, 2020. On August 6, 2020, the Navy granted Ecology a second extension until August 28, 2020.

The Navy's proposed action seeks to continue and expand future sea and air training and testing activities in Washington waters using sonar, explosives, and other simulated military actions. These activities are to take place in the Study Area, made up of "previously established maritime operating and warning areas in the eastern North Pacific Ocean region, and training and testing areas within inland Washington State waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound."

According to the Navy's June 1 Consistency Determination, the following activities would be new to Washington waters and coastal zone area.

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They also have the potential to affect our state's coastal resources or uses (CD: pp 15-18). These include:

- Torpedo Exercise (non-explosive; Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training)
- At-Sea Sonar Testing
- Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing
- Propulsion Testing
- Undersea Warfare Testing
- Vessel Signature Evaluation
- Acoustic and Oceanographic Research
- Radar and Other Systems Testing;
- Simulant Testing
- Intelligence Surveillance, Reconnaissance/Electronic Warfare Triton Testing

These activities and their impacts are discussed in greater detail in section "Activities and their Effects" on p. 6.

According to the Navy's Consistency Determination, the activities associated with the Proposed Action are to be conducted at sea and at select Navy pierside and harbor locations, and the air and water space within and outside portions of Washington's coastal zone. In addition, the Study Area includes Navy pier-side locations where sonar maintenance and testing occurs as part of overhaul, modernization, maintenance, and repair activities (e.g., Naval Base (NAVBASE) Kitsap Bremerton, NAVBASE Kitsap Bangor, and Naval Station Everett).

## Decision

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(1) of the Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended, and 15 C.F.R. § 930.4, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is issuing a Conditional Concurrence for the U.S. Navy's 2019 Northwest Training and Testing Draft Supplemental Impact Statement (NWTTS SEIS). Ecology has concluded the Navy's proposed action is **not consistent** with Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program and its enforceable policies. Therefore, Ecology is issuing the Navy a "Conditional Concurrence" that outlines specific measures to be put in place to protect Washington's coastal resources, including threatened and endangered marine mammals and other wildlife species, related forage and habitat areas, and state water quality. The conditions contained in this decision will ensure that the Navy's Proposed Action is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable with Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program policies, provided the Navy modifies its Proposed Action in accordance with these conditions.

Ecology's conditions are necessary to protect Washington's endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (orcas), which may benefit other cetaceans and marine mammals, and other numerous species. In addition, Ecology's conditions include measures to ensure that Washington's coastal zone waters remain free of pollutants from the Navy's use of explosives, simulants, and other testing media. Refer to page 11 for the complete set of conditions.

## Washington's Coastal Resources

A significant enforceable policy is found in the Ocean Resources Management Act (ORMA) 43.143.030(2), which calls for projects to have no significant adverse impacts on marine resources. Thus,

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a description of the coastal resources that Ecology seeks to protect through its conditions is necessary to lay the foundation in satisfying the enforceable policy. Following the discussion of coastal resources, Ecology discusses the potential significant impacts that the Navy's Proposed Action will have on our coastal resources, particularly our Southern Resident orcas.

Excluding federal parks and marine reserves and tribal reservations, Washington's coastal zone areas include the entirety of the state's 15 counties contiguous to Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Pacific Ocean coast out to 3 nautical miles. Washington's coastal areas include some of the most highly productive and diverse ecosystems on the planet. The health and status of marine flora and fauna, their habitats, and the coastal ecosystems in which they reside are of primary importance to tribes, coastal communities, Washington residents and the state.

Washington's biologically productive coastal waters support a diversity of habitats and species, many of which are important ecologically, culturally, and economically to Washington, the United States, and the world. The coastal areas are comprised of many habitats which support numerous species of fish, mammals, birds, and other marine fauna. Several habitats occur within the coastal zone and the Pacific coastal area where the majority of the Navy's proposed activities will occur: pelagic, seafloor, kelp forest, rocky shores, sandy beaches, and large coastal estuary habitat. These habitats support an impressive, diverse array of species that form a large, complex food network. Ecology is concerned about effects to many species in a variety of habitats.

Many species of seabirds and marine mammals feed and transit through the coastal areas, and numerous species of marine birds live, reproduce, feed, and transit through the area, some migrating thousands of miles to "winter" in Washington's coastal waters. These animals feed on zooplankton, forage fish, salmon, and other fishes. Occasionally, leatherback sea turtles also feed in the pelagic habitat. They forage off the coast, inhabiting open ocean and occasionally use inshore waters (bays and estuaries), with nesting on sandy beaches.

Several fishes live within coastal rocky shores, moving in and out with the tides and residing in tide pools. Common species include small sculpins and gunnells. Many seabirds, shorebirds, raptors, and general foraging bird species use rocky shores. Oystercatchers, gulls, and crows forage within the rocky intertidal zones. Species such as petrels, cormorants, gulls, tufted puffins, and murres nest in colonies on offshore rocky islands and sea stacks. Harbor seals are common in rocky intertidal habitats along the outer coast, and are year-round residents. Rocky islands are also used as haul-outs for Steller sea lions and California sea lions. Northern elephant seals have been observed occasionally at some rocky islands.

#### **SHELLFISH & ESTUARIES**

The large coastal estuaries of the Columbia River, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor are semi-enclosed, brackish bodies of water that form where rivers meet the ocean. They are highly productive ecosystems that support a wide range of species at different life history stages, along with numerous ecosystem services. They are also important transitional systems that are linked to freshwater, terrestrial, and marine processes. Washington's coastal estuaries are critical habitat for a variety of marine and terrestrial organisms. Primary producers include phytoplankton, benthic microalgae, macroalgae, and macrophytes, such as eelgrass, kelp, salt marsh plants and terrestrial plants.

Shellfish and fish are abundant in the estuaries and Puget Sound. Specific shellfish species include the Olympia oyster, non-native Pacific oyster, non-native manila clam, Dungeness crab, and others. Numerous listed and commercially important fishes spend at least some part of their life-cycle within estuaries and Puget Sound. Specific fish species include six species of salmon, herring, three-spined

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stickleback, sturgeon, sevengill sharks, and many others. Estuaries and Puget Sound provide crucial nursery habitat for many species of juvenile fishes and crabs.

Ecology is concerned about high pH levels that could potentially affect the water quality within marine waters, particularly estuaries and Puget Sound, leading to effects on shellfish, plankton and other fauna.

#### FISH

Washington's coastal areas serve as habitat for a variety of fishes. Fishes are important both ecologically and economically to the state of Washington. Several species of forage fish inhabit the coastal waters, and they tend to be present in high abundance, feed on plankton for a portion of their life cycle, and form dense schools or aggregations.

- Salmonids (salmon and related species) and other anadromous fishes are of high ecological and economic importance in Washington. Anadromous species spawn in freshwater systems, migrate to nearshore and offshore marine areas to feed and grow, then return to home rivers and streams upon maturity to start the cycle again. Seven salmonids, Pacific eulachon, green sturgeon, white sturgeon, and Pacific lamprey occur within the coastal waters. Eight of the twelve anadromous species in the coastal area are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or Washington State species of concern lists.

#### SEABIRDS

Numerous bird species use and transit through Washington's coastal waters. Many species, including seabirds, raptors, marshbirds, waterbirds, and shorebirds, forage and nest in sea stacks, rocky offshore islands, cliffs, bluffs, dunes, marshlands, estuaries, tidal flats, coastal beaches, and old-growth forests. Seabird and shorebird populations occur throughout the outer coast of Washington, with the majority located along the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula. Washington is also along the Pacific Flyway, a migratory pathway for millions of waterbirds, shorebirds, and raptors. Some seabird species migrate thousands of miles to forage in the offshore waters, such as albatross and shearwaters. Estuaries are also crucial habitat for several resident and migratory bird species. Five National Wildlife Refuges have been established in or directly adjacent to Washington's coastal waters to protect land-based resources where large concentrations of birds occur and where seabirds nest.

#### MARINE MAMMALS

At least 29 species of marine mammals inhabit or transit through the coastal waters at some point in their lives. Species include baleen and toothed whales, seals and sea lions, and sea otters. Many marine mammals are top predators within the ecosystem, while some large baleen whales are primarily filter or bottom feeders (e.g. Humpback and Gray whales). Diets vary from krill, invertebrates, forage fish, salmon, other fishes, and even other marine mammals. About 20,000 Gray whales migrate through the coastal waters, with the abundance of Gray whales at any time influenced by environmental variability within the Arctic feeding grounds and the timing of migration.

- Southern Resident Killer Whales (Orcas): Southern Resident orcas are a unique group of orcas that spend over half the year in the Salish Sea, which includes Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia. For the other half, they are found foraging for salmon along the west coast as far south as Monterey Bay. Males can live 50-60 years and females for 90 years or more. Southern Resident killer whales are the only endangered population of killer whales in the United States, ranging from central California to southeast Alaska. The Southern Resident orca is one of NOAA Fisheries' "Species in the Spotlight."



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#### **WATER QUALITY**

All of the coastal resources mentioned above rely on clean water; i.e. healthy water quality. Water quality refers to a chemically and biologically balanced water column, extending from the bottom of the waterbody's bed to the water's surface. The presence and distribution of plants and animals are determined by a combination of physical factors such as salinity, wave exposure, sediment type, and temperature.

Clean water sustains healthy watersheds and communities and ensure that it supports a wide variety of beneficial uses, including recreational and business activities, supplies for clean drinking water, and the protection of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and public health. Clean water is critical to the health of marine and freshwater habitats and the organisms that live in them. As described in this resource section, Washington's coastal waters support a stunning array of wildlife, maintain cultural identities, and provide many different uses that benefit the entire state.

#### **Stressors**

---

The CZMA's federal regulations call for federal agencies to review their proposed projects and activities to determine if they will have foreseeable, potential effects on states' coastal resources and uses. If there are such effects, then the federal agency must prepare a Consistency Determination (CD) describing how the proposed activity or project meets the states' coastal zone management programs by demonstrating consistency with the applicable enforceable policies of the programs.

In this case, the Navy prepared a Consistency Determination, thereby acknowledging effects to coastal resources and uses within Washington's coastal zone. The Navy's CD categorizes effects or impacts as different types of "stressors" that could occur with the each of the activities described associated with the various activities. The following stressors are described in the Navy's CD at pp 19-20 as excerpted below:

##### **PHYSICAL DISTURBANCES AND STRIKES**

(Vessel movement, in-water devices, aircraft and aerial targets, military expended material, and seafloor devices)

Vessel movement is similar to or less than those of general maritime environment and has the potential for short-term behavioral disturbance of marine species (e.g., birds) and recreational activities. Surface and subsurface vessels may have the potential for short-term behavioral disturbance on marine species.

##### **ENERGY**

(In-air electromagnetic energy, in-water electromagnetic energy, and high-energy lasers)

In-air electromagnetic energy is operated at power levels, altitudes, and distances from people and animals to ensure that energy received is well below levels that could disrupt behavior or cause injury. Most in-air electromagnetic energy is reflected by water. Potential minor and temporary effects may occur to bird species resulting in no population level effects.

##### **EXPLOSIVES**

(e.g., in-water explosives, in-air explosives)

The use of explosives could result in a disturbance to behavior, or lethal or non-lethal injuries. The majority of explosives are used either far offshore or on established ranges where the explosive activity is closely monitored to be protective of marine species. Most explosives would occur at or near the ocean surface, minimizing effects to habitat.



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Chemical byproducts from the use of explosives would be subject to physical, chemical, and biological processes that would render the materials harmless or otherwise disperse them to undetectable levels.

#### **ENTANGLEMENT**

(Wires and cables, decelerators/parachutes, biodegradable polymer)

The use of wires, cables, and decelerators/parachutes may have the potential to result in effects on marine mammals through entanglement. The likelihood that a marine species would encounter and become entangled in these items is considered low as there have been no known instances of entanglement of any marine mammals involving the use of wires and cables associated with Navy training and testing activities.

#### **INGESTION**

(e.g., military expended materials)

The use of military expended materials have the potential to result in effects on marine species due to ingestion. While heavier debris sinks to the seafloor, some remains floating or suspended within the water column. The likelihood that a marine species would encounter and then ingest a military expended item associated with activities is considered low.

#### **ACOUSTICS**

(Sonar and other transducers, vessel noise, aircraft noise, and weapons noise)

Active sonar may result in a wide range of effects from injury to behavioral changes to loss of hearing, and depends on the frequency and duration of the source, the physical characteristics of the environment, and the species (among many other complex factors).

### **Activities and their Effects**

The Navy's CD describes the particular activity; e.g. "Torpedo Exercise," and then includes a description of the activity, the type of stressor, and potential impacts for each. Each exercise described below has at least two, and some have up to six, of the stressors described above. For example, the Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing exercise has 6 stressors: (i.e., acoustic, explosive, physical disturbance/strike, ingestion, energy and entanglement).

#### Training

**TORPEDO EXERCISE (NONEXPLOSIVE) – SUBMARINE:** Submarine crews search for, detect, and track a surface vessel or threat submarine to develop firing position to launch a non-explosive torpedo. A single submerged submarine operates at slow speeds and various depths while using its hull-mounted or towed array sonar to track a surface vessel or threat submarine. Passive sonar is used almost exclusively.

Passive sonar is used almost exclusively. However, some active sonar is required for this activity, and although intensity diminishes with distance, sound emitted outside of the coastal zone may propagate into the coastal zone. Any marine mammals exposed to sonar or other acoustic effects outside of the coastal zone are not likely to remain affected if the animal were to return to the coastal zone, because the vast majority of predicted effects are temporary effects to behavior, which would no longer be present when the animal is in the coastal zone.

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**UNMANNED UNDERWATER VEHICLE TRAINING:** Conducted with unmanned platforms on which various payloads are attached and used for different purposes. Training can range from basic remote control and autonomous navigation tests to deployment and activation of onboard systems that may include hydrodynamic instruments, launchers, and recovery capabilities.

Active sonar is required for this activity and may result in a wide range of effects from injury to behavioral changes to loss of hearing, and depends on the frequency and duration of the source, the physical characteristics of the environment, and the species (among other complex factors).

#### Testing

**AT-SEA SONAR TESTING:** Tests consist of electronic support measurement, photonics, and sonar sensor accuracy testing. In some instances, a submarine's passive detection capability is tested when a second submarine utilizes its active sonar or is equipped with a noise augmentation system in order to replicate acoustic or electromagnetic signatures of other vessel types or classes.

Active sonar is required for this activity and may result in a wide range of effects from injury to behavioral changes to loss of hearing, and depends on the frequency and duration of the source, the physical characteristics of the environment, and the species (among many other complex factors).

**MINE COUNTERMEASURE AND NEUTRALIZATION TESTING:** Uses air, surface, and subsurface units to evaluate the effectiveness of tracking devices, countermeasure and neutralization systems, and general purpose bombs to neutralize mine threats. Testing uses explosives in the water column and would occur in waters 3 NM or greater from shore at the Quinault Range Site (outside the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary) or 12 NM or greater from shore elsewhere in the NWTT Offshore Area.

Explosives are required for this activity. The use of explosives could result in a disturbance to behavior, or lethal or non-lethal injuries (quantitative analysis done for this activity did not predict any lethal injuries for marine mammals). Most explosives would occur in the water column, minimizing effects to habitat.

**PROPULSION TESTING:** During this activity the ship is tested for maneuverability, including full power and endurance runs. Surface ships will operate at least 10 NM from shore, across the full spectrum of capable speeds.

Coastal effects are not reasonably foreseeable because the stressors to biological resources (i.e., acoustic and physical disturbance and strike) associated with the activity would not likely affect coastal zone uses or resources. This activity would occur at least 10 NM from shore and involves the use of surface ships.

**VESSEL SIGNATURE EVALUATION:** While this activity is not new, it includes a new location in inland waters. Passive monitoring of surface ships and submarines, conducted on new ships and periodically throughout a vessel's life cycle, to assess the vessel's vulnerability to various types of detection systems when operating in different profiles (e.g., with or without a communication buoy deployed). Signature testing may include the subject vessel's own safety and navigation systems, tracking devices and range safety systems, radar systems, and underwater or in-air communications equipment. Submarines move through the test site, but in-water devices may be towed. Data may be collected by passive acoustic hydrophones, by passive electro-magnetic or infrared sensors, or by radar.

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During this activity the ship is tested for maneuverability, including full power and endurance runs. Surface ships will operate at least 10 NM from shore, across the full spectrum of capable speeds. Vessel movement is similar to or less than those of general maritime environment and has the potential for short-term behavioral disturbance of marine species (e.g., birds) and recreational activities. Surface and subsurface vessels may have the potential for short-term behavioral disturbance on marine species.

**ACOUSTIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH:** Active acoustic transmissions are used for engineering tests of acoustic sources, validation of ocean acoustic models, tests of signal processing algorithms, and characterization of acoustic interactions with the ocean bottom, fish and ocean surface. Standard oceanographic research sensing (acoustic Doppler current profiler, fathometer-like systems) will also be employed. The CD has no stressors noted for this activity.

**RADAR AND OTHER SYSTEM TESTING:** Includes new stressor (high-energy laser weapon) and a laser-based optical communication system (tested in both the Inland Waters and Offshore Area).

- At-sea testing may include use of military or commercial radar, communication systems (including laser-based optical communication systems), or high-energy laser weapons. Air and surface targets used in testing may include unmanned aerial vehicles, small craft (e.g., floating cardboard triwalls, towed, anchored, or self-propelled vessels) or shore-based platforms.
- Testing of laser-based optical communication systems may include air and subsurface transmissions with targets that include stationary/moored platforms, manned or unmanned underwater vehicles, and unmanned aerial vehicles. High-energy laser weapons testing may include tracking, scoring, and neutralization runs with single or multiple targets.
- High-energy laser weapons would be tested only in the Offshore Area beyond 3 NM from shore. Laser-based optical communication systems would be tested in the Dabob Bay Range Complex or the Offshore Area (including the Quinalt Range Site).

This activity would occur both within and outside of the coastal zone and involves the use of surface ships, rotary-wing aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, stationary/moored platforms, support craft, shore-based facilities, aerial targets, surface targets, and/or sub-surface targets.

**SIMULENT TESTING:** The capability of surface ship defense systems to detect and protect against chemical and biological attacks are tested. All chemical simulants have low toxicity to humans and the environment. Examples of chemical simulants include glacial acetic acid and triethyl phosphate. All biological simulants are considered to be Biosafety Level 1 organisms (e.g. spore-forming bacteria, non-spore-forming bacteria, the protein ovalbumin, MS2 bacteriophages, and the fungus *Aspergillus niger*).

Coastal effects are not reasonably foreseeable because the stressors to biological resources (i.e., acoustic, physical disturbance/strike, and energy) associated with the activity would not likely affect coastal zone uses or resources. This activity would occur at least 3 NM from shore, outside of the coastal zone, and involves the use of fixed-wing aircraft, rotary-wing aircraft, and/or surface combatants.

**INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE, RECONNAISSANCE/ELECTRONIC WARFARE TRITON TESTING:** Testing will evaluate the sensors and communication systems on board the MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial system. This activity typically occurs at altitudes greater than 5,500 feet above mean sea level.

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The Navy concludes in its CD that the proposed training and testing activities are not expected to have long-term consequences for the populations or stocks of marine mammals. Ecology disagrees about the effects of the activities on marine mammals, particularly Southern Resident orcas, and, thus, is attaching the conditions below that will ensure that the Navy's activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Enforceable Policies of the WCZMP.

### Specific Effects on Marine Resources

Ecology and other Washington State officials and resource agencies are concerned that, without Ecology's conditions, the Navy's activities will have significant long-term effects on Washington coastal resources. Given the numerous marine animals and other resources that are likely to suffer the effects from the Navy's new activities compounded by previously authorized activities, Ecology is highlighting the effects to the Southern Resident orcas and other large cetaceans. As described in the CD, the Navy's mitigation measures are insufficient to provide necessary protections to the vulnerable, declining populations of key marine mammals, particularly Southern Resident orcas, of Washington's coastal zone and lead to the conclusion that conditions are necessary to alleviate adverse effects.

Ongoing Naval exercises in the air and water around Washington pose a serious threat to **Southern Resident orcas**, and the impact of new and expanded activities will further threaten this vulnerable population. Ecology's conditions will help minimize the threats to these animals. An icon of the Pacific Northwest, Southern Resident orcas have captured the hearts of Washington's residents, citizens, and visitors and hold significant cultural value for Washington's tribes. With the apparent loss of three whales last summer 2019, Southern Resident orcas appear to have a population of just 73 whales—the lowest population level in more than 40 years.

Given this declining population, the loss of even one more whale could greatly undermine recovery efforts for decades. The most up-to-date information on the Southern Resident orca population, must be relied on, and assessments of impacts must be based on current data, which projects the existing population of 73 whales. Thus, the potential harm of the Navy's activities on this vulnerable population has been underestimated. With such a small and shrinking population, the impact of each take is amplified within the population.

The Navy's actions could result in a total of 51 annual "takes" a year of Southern Resident orcas in the form of Level B harassment. Given the imperiled nature of this population, this number of takes threatens a significant impact on the population from the Navy's training and testing activities. Furthermore, these take numbers do not account for the fact that Southern Resident orcas generally travel in pods and thus likely underestimate the potential adverse impact to this precarious population since activities could impact multiple animals at once. Additionally, three orcas appear to be carrying young, which makes them more vulnerable, as well as their future calves.

The cumulative impact of repeated exposures to the same whales over time needs to be seriously considered, and Ecology's conditions can address these impacts. The Navy's testing and training activities have already been authorized twice before, and are likely to continue into the future. According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Due to the longevity of Southern Resident orcas and the estimated percentage of take for the population [being] so high (68%), the effects of take will be compounded over time and may have cumulative effects, such as behavioral abandonment of key foraging areas and adverse, long term effects on hearing and echolocation." Instances of temporary hearing loss, such as the Temporary Threshold Shifts (TTS) can be cumulative

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and lead to long-term hearing loss. This could have a significant impact on Southern Resident orcas, which rely on hearing for communication, feeding, and ship avoidance.

In addition, Level B Harassment can disrupt "migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered," all behaviors critical to survival of the Southern Resident orcas. Given the many stresses already faced by this endangered population, repeated harassment on this scale could be significant and even lead to mortality.

The Navy's use of mid-frequency sonar can impact wildlife within 2,000 square miles and mine explosives can cause death or injury. Although these activities may affect a wide range of marine mammals, the potential impact of these activities on endangered Southern Resident orcas is of particular concern, given their dangerously low population size. This is the third consecutive authorization period during which the Navy may be approved for such testing and training exercises and these or similar activities are likely to continue for decades. For long-lived marine species, the effects of take will be compounded over time and may have cumulative effects, such as behavioral abandonment of key foraging areas and adverse, long-term effects on hearing and echolocation. Again, the Navy finds these effects of minor significance, a finding with which Ecology disagrees.

**Gray whales** are currently undergoing an unexplained die-off leading to 352 strandings between January 2019 and July 2020, including 44 strandings along the coast of Washington alone. NOAA is investigating the die-off as an Unusual Mortality Event. While it is not clear what specifically is driving this event, many animals show signs of "poor to thin body condition." Because the cause of the Unusual Mortality Event is unknown, the Navy cannot cite an increasing population and then assert that its activities for a seven-year period are insignificant because the health of the gray whale population could decline.

For several species, including **harbor seals, Dall's porpoise, and harbor porpoise**, the Navy's near constant harassment every year for a seven-year period could significantly damage the population of those species. For example, the Navy's proposal could lead to a take 30 times the abundance of the Hood Canal population of harbor seals every year, 3,084 percent of population abundance, and similarly authorizes high levels of takes for Southern Puget Sound harbor seals (168 percent of population abundance). This high level of take could lead to interruptions in foraging that could lead to reproductive loss for female harbor seals. However, there is no analysis regarding how this harassment and loss of reproduction could affect the population as a whole, beyond an assertion that these impacts "would not be expected to adversely affect the stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival."

The rates of take for populations of Dall's porpoises (131 percent of population abundance) and the populations of harbor porpoises on the Northern OR/WA Coast (244 percent of population abundance) and in Washington Inland Waters (265 percent of population abundance) are also exceptionally high. These porpoises are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of anthropogenic sound. This level of take could also lead to reproductive loss.

The **leatherback turtle** is classified as endangered under the ESA and has Critical Habitat designated within the Study Area. The western Pacific leatherback sea turtle populations are particularly at risk, and the SEIS states that (the effort to analyze population structure and distribution by distinct population segment...) is critical to focus efforts to protect the species, because the status of individual stocks varies widely across the world. Western Pacific leatherbacks have declined more than 80 percent and eastern Pacific leatherbacks have declined by more than 97 percent since the 1980s. Because the threats to



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these subpopulations have not ceased, the International Union for Conservation of Nature has predicted a decline of 96 percent for the western Pacific subpopulation.”

### Effects on Water Quality

Ocean acidification and changes to pH within the estuaries and Puget Sound have already had documented impacts to water quality and biological resources of the state of Washington, particularly shellfish and other fish. It has been a large enough concern that the state has developed and implemented a comprehensive action plan to address ocean acidification (<http://oainwa.org/>). Naval activities that alter the pH would further exacerbate these conditions.

The discharges from the simulant testing and explosive activities have potential to harm state waters, insofar as they affect Washington's coastal water quality; and the resources relying on water quality. The Navy must demonstrate that the effects from proposed activities meet the enforceable policies of Washington's CZMP through implementing the conditions of the conditional concurrence.

### Conditions & Enforceable Policies

The following analysis includes the Condition and why the Condition is necessary along with the applicable enforceable policy, language from the Navy's Consistency Determination, and supporting language justifying the Condition. Conditions 1 – 3 are required for consistency with the Ocean Resources Management Act, and the basis for those Conditions is found in the attached letters to this document. Conditions 4 – 7 are required for consistency with the Water Pollution Control Act. The supporting documentation for these conditions is contained in Attachments 1, 2, and 3.

Within this conditional concurrence Ecology must notify the Navy of the following requirements:

Pursuant to §930.4 Conditional concurrences:

- (a)(1) The State agency shall include in its concurrence letter the conditions which must be satisfied, an explanation of why the conditions are necessary to ensure consistency with specific enforceable policies of the management program, and an identification of the specific enforceable policies. The State agency's concurrence letter shall also inform the parties that if the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of the section are not met, then all parties shall treat the State agency's conditional concurrence letter as an objection.
- (2) The Federal agency shall modify the applicable plan or project proposal pursuant to the State agency's conditions. The Federal agency, applicant, person or applicant agency shall immediately notify the State agency if the State agency's conditions are not acceptable;
- (b) If the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section are not met, then all parties shall treat the State agency's conditional concurrence as an objection.

Thus, according to the above CFR, if the Navy does not accept Ecology's conditions and does not modify the project, then Ecology's Conditional Concurrence will be treated as an objection under §930.43 State agency objection. The Navy must immediately notify Ecology if it finds Ecology's conditions unacceptable.

**Condition 1.** The Navy shall cease active sonar exercises when any orca is detected within 1000 yards and refrain from resuming transmissions until the orca has left the mitigation zone.

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Considering the potential for negative impacts from exposure to sonar, the Navy shall be required to cease transmission of active sonar when orcas are detected within 1,000 yards. The Navy's current mitigation zones include powering down by degrees at distances within 1000 yards but not ceasing activity until marine mammals, including orcas, are within 100-200 yards. This condition is necessary because the effects from the Navy's proposed activities are likely to have long-term, adverse significant impacts on marine resources, particularly Southern Resident Orcas. Due to the difficulties of distinguishing between orca ecotypes, especially with increased distance, the shut-down applies to all orcas. The enforceable policies of the Washington Coastal Management Program (WCZMP) require a finding that the Proposed Action will not be likely to have long-term significant adverse impacts to coastal or marine resources or uses, including the resources and uses described above. Additionally, all reasonable steps must be taken to avoid and minimize the adverse environmental impacts. Between onboard lookouts and the use of the additional detection measures cited in Condition 2 (see below), we believe this to be a feasible and appropriate precaution. While the Navy's CD concludes that the Proposed Action would not significantly affect marine habitats or decrease the overall fitness of WA coastal resources, the evidence suggests otherwise.

Analysis of the Navy's SEIS has identified active (e.g., DICASS) and Multistatic Active Coherent sonobuoys (AN/SSQS-125) to be the source of the majority of Northwest Training and Testing disturbance to Southern Resident orcas. The areas identified for that activity, while greater than 12 nautical miles offshore, overlap with documented Southern Resident use. As noted in a joint letter to NMFS, Washington State natural resource agencies asserted that "such systems only operate above 200dB (and appear to be omnidirectional), making them much louder, more potentially damaging, and with a much greater range than the MF1 and MF5 systems that are currently profiled" (State of Washington to Jolie Harrison, July 16, 2020, Attachment 3). As discussed above, Southern Resident orcas rely heavily on hearing for important functions necessary to their survival. The Navy's SEIS does not make clear the potential damage to Southern Residents and other cetaceans from this activity. This lack of clarity regarding the potential impacts demands a more cautious approach than currently proposed by the Navy.

Based on the effects to Washington's Southern Resident orcas, Ecology finds that the Navy's proposed action will result in long-term significant impacts, and it does not take all reasonable steps to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts to them. Additionally, given the stated adverse impacts to orcas, as well as other marine mammals, Ecology is concerned about whether all reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to the marine life and resources of the Columbia River, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor estuaries, and the Olympic national park. If the proposed action is modified in accordance with Condition 1, then it will be consistent with these enforceable policies to the maximum extent practicable.

**Applicable Enforceable Policies:**

**ORMA RCW 43.143.030(2):** Uses or activities that require federal, state, or local government permits or other approvals and that will adversely impact renewable resources, marine life, fishing, aquaculture, recreation, navigation, air or water quality, or other existing ocean or coastal uses, may be permitted only if the criteria below are met or exceeded:

(c) There will be no likely long-term significant adverse impacts to coastal or marine resources or uses.

The Navy's CD says: "Analyses in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS (see Section 3) indicate that the Proposed Action would not significantly affect marine habitats nor would it effect the ability of

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*marine substrates to serve their function as habitat. The Proposed Action is also not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any marine mammal, sea turtle, marine invertebrate, fish, or marine vegetation population."*

**(d)** All reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts, with special protection provided for the marine life and resources of the Columbia river, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor estuaries, and Olympic National Park.

The Navy's CD says: *"Within the Study Area, the Navy implements standard operating procedures, mitigation measures, and marine species monitoring and reporting. Navy standard operating procedures have the indirect benefit of reducing potential effects on marine resources. Mitigation measures are designed to reduce or avoid potential effects on marine resources. Marine species monitoring efforts are designed to track compliance with take authorizations, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and improve understanding of the effects of training and testing activities on marine resources."*

**Condition 2.** In addition to onboard spotters, the Navy shall consult whale location data available through NOAA's hydrophone network and Washington's Whale Report Alert System, prior to active sonar-testing and training activities.

This condition is necessary because the mitigation activities proposed are dependent upon observations by onboard Lookouts. Detection of an animal is dependent on many factors, such as availability, group size and surfacing behavior. This additional mitigation step represents use of the best available data, should cause minimal impact to the Navy's ability to perform exercises, and has the potential to reduce impacts to Southern Resident orcas and other cetaceans.

Real-time whale alert systems include NOAA's hydrophone network and data from the Whale Report Alert System currently used by Washington State Ferries. Passive acoustic monitoring in the waters in and around Washington can provide real time data to the Navy. This data is readily available and serves as a useful resource for the Navy to plan out its testing and training activities to reduce impacts to marine mammals. It may also increase the effectiveness of the Navy's testing and training activities if it helps to reduce the number of delayed or canceled actions due to animal presence.

**Applicable Enforceable Policies:**

**ORMA RCW 43.143.030(2):** Uses or activities that require federal, state, or local government permits or other approvals and that will adversely impact renewable resources, marine life, fishing, aquaculture, recreation, navigation, air or water quality, or other existing ocean or coastal uses, may be permitted only if the criteria below are met or exceeded:

**(c)** There will be no likely long-term significant adverse impacts to coastal or marine resources or uses.

The Navy's CD says: *"Analyses in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS (see Section 3) indicate that the Proposed Action would not significantly affect marine habitats nor would it effect the ability of marine substrates to serve their function as habitat. The Proposed Action is also not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any marine mammal, sea turtle, marine invertebrate, fish, or marine vegetation population."*



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(d) All reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts, with special protection provided for the marine life and resources of the Columbia river, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor estuaries, and Olympic national park.

The Navy's CD says: "Within the Study Area, the Navy implements standard operating procedures, mitigation measures, and marine species monitoring and reporting. Navy standard operating procedures have the indirect benefit of reducing potential effects on marine resources. Mitigation measures are designed to reduce or avoid potential effects on marine resources. Marine species monitoring efforts are designed to track compliance with take authorizations, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and improve understanding of the effects of training and testing activities on marine resources. Mitigation measures are coordinated with NMFS and USFWS through the consultation and permitting processes."

**Condition 3:** As the Navy has done for other forms of sonar, the Navy shall provide a table estimating the ranges of temporary and permanent threshold shifts for the Anti-Submarine Warfare 2 (ASWR) sonar bin and clarifying predicted effects on marine mammals. The Navy shall also submit reports on its use of the Whale Report Alert System and communications with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NMFS to obtain near real-time information on the location of Southern Resident orcas to the state department of Ecology.

According to information cited in the letters in Attachments 1, 2, and 3 of this Conditional Concurrence letter, this condition is necessary because, as described below, sonar can impact marine mammals within a 2,000 square mile area, much farther than the 100 yards proposed for some of the Navy's proposed activities and the 1000 yards included in Condition 1. As previously discussed in the "Effects on Marine Resources" at p.9, Southern Resident orcas and other cetaceans rely heavily on hearing for important functions necessary to their survival. The use of sonar can disrupt these functions and lead to harm. Additionally, prior authorizations for similar activities, when added to the instant proposed authorization, and potential future authorizations, amount to a lifetime of sonar exposure and increased potential for permanent damage and population-level effects.

According to the Navy's SEIS, activities in the ASW2 sonar bin are responsible for the majority of Southern Resident orca impacts. Despite this fact, the Navy has not adequately documented potential threshold shifts in hearing for the Southern Resident orcas associated with these activities. It is possible that the effects are unlikely to be significant, but this omission renders Ecology unable to make a determination. In order to demonstrate the lack of significant impact on coastal resources, we require the Navy to provide a table estimating the potential impacts of these activities to marine mammals.

Ecology disagrees that the Proposed Action's impacts will not significantly affect coastal resources, rather, Ecology finds that the impacts are long-term and significant. The Navy has not demonstrated that the adverse impacts from this project will be avoided, minimized or mitigated enough to prevent long-term significant impacts.

**Applicable Enforceable Policies:**

**ORMA RCW 43.143.030(2):** Uses or activities that require federal, state, or local government permits or other approvals and that will adversely impact renewable resources, marine life, fishing, aquaculture, recreation, navigation, air or water quality, or other existing ocean or coastal uses, may be permitted only if the criteria below are met or exceeded:

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(c) There will be no likely long-term significant adverse impacts to coastal or marine resources or uses.

The Navy's CD says: "Analyses in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS (see Section 3) indicate that the Proposed Action would not significantly affect marine habitats nor would it effect the ability of marine substrates to serve their function as habitat. The Proposed Action is also not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any marine mammal, sea turtle, marine invertebrate, fish, or marine vegetation population."

(d) All reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts, with special protection provided for the marine life and resources of the Columbia river, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor estuaries, and Olympic national park.

The Navy's CD says: "Within the Study Area, the Navy implements standard operating procedures, mitigation measures, and marine species monitoring and reporting. Navy standard operating procedures have the indirect benefit of reducing potential effects on marine resources. Mitigation measures are designed to reduce or avoid potential effects on marine resources. Marine species monitoring efforts are designed to track compliance with take authorizations, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and improve understanding of the effects of training and testing activities on marine resources. Mitigation measures are coordinated with NMFS and USFWS through the consultation and permitting processes."

**Condition 4.** The Navy shall implement best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality, prevent or reduce water pollution, and minimize any discharges from the proposed activities.

The Navy shall implement BMPs, including but not limited to practices for product storage, operations/use and disposal of unused product and associated wastes.

Washington's enforceable policies help protect and restore Washington's waters, while sustaining healthy watersheds and communities. They also ensure that state waters support beneficial uses such as recreational and business activities, provide clean drinking water, and protect fish, shellfish, wildlife, and public health. The discharges from the Navy's training and testing activities, specifically simulant testing and explosive activities, have potential to harm state waters insofar as they affect Washington's coastal water quality and coastal resources such as marine mammals and other Endangered Species Act-listed species along with their habitat.

Therefore, naval activities need to be conducted in a manner that minimizes the amount of debris and toxins discharged to water to ensure that the water quality standards are not violated and demonstrate that the effects from proposed activities meet the enforceable policies of Washington's CZMP.

While the Navy's assessment is that the chemical simulants would have low toxicity to humans and the environment and the biological simulants are considered "Biosafety Level 1 organisms," without further information, Ecology cannot come to the same conclusion. Depending on the simulants utilized, disbursement, volumes, etc., it is expected that as the material settles on the water surface it can get concentrated by currents and wind and, as a result, the local exposure might be very high. Further, airborne chemical substances may be inhaled by marine mammals, birds or people at sea or concentrated at the surface and ingested in a different way), and airborne biologics may be inhaled by marine mammals, birds or people at sea or deposited at the sea surface, resulting in a higher contact concentration for seabirds and marine mammals than anticipated. Finally, Ecology is concerned about

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high pH levels that could potentially affect the water quality within marine waters (i.e., ocean acidification), particularly in estuaries and Puget Sound, leading to effects on shellfish, plankton, and other fauna.

While the Navy states that [c]hemical byproducts from the use of explosives would be subject to physical, chemical, and biological processes that would render the materials harmless or otherwise disperse them to undetectable levels," Ecology remains concerned that about the effect of these byproducts on state waters and sediments.

The Navy's proposed best management practices and mitigation measures do not alleviate Ecology's concerns about the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on its coastal water quality, and insufficient information was provided for Ecology to conclude that these activities would not have an effect on its coastal resources; Washington's coastal waters are likely to be degraded and marine life may be impacted from discharges associated with simulant and explosive activities.

This proposed action allows discharges of matter from simulant testing and explosive activity which may impact receiving waters. RCW 90.48.080 specifically prohibits the discharge of organic matters into waters of the state that shall cause or tend to cause pollution according to the determination of the department. The extent of the impact from these discharges cannot be readily determined based on the information within the CD.

- The Navy's CD states: "*Clean Water Act/Washington Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 90.48 RCW) – Discharge permits are not required for the Proposed Action. Therefore, this enforceable policy, as it relates to Federal Consistency with the Washington CZMP, is not applicable to the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act*".

The CD wrongly assumes that Chapter 90.48 only applies when discharge permits are required and does not address best management practices for water quality protection.

**Applicable Enforceable Policies:**

**Chapter 90.48.080 RCW – Discharge of polluting matter in water prohibited**

"It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drain, run, or otherwise discharge into any of the waters of this state, or to cause, permit or suffer to be thrown, run, drained, allowed to seep or otherwise [be] discharged into such waters any organic or inorganic matter that shall cause or tend to cause pollution of such waters according to the determination of the department, as provided for in this chapter."

**WAC 173-201A-020 – Definition of "Pollution" from the WQ standards**

Pollution means such contamination, or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties, of any waters of the state, including change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or order of the waters, or such discharge of any liquid, gaseous, solid radioactive, or other substance into any waters of the state as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to the public health, safety, or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life.

**WAC 173-201A-240 -Toxic substances**

- (1) Toxic shall not be introduced above natural background levels in waters of the state which have the potential either singularly or cumulatively to adversely affect characteristic water uses,



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cause acute or chronic toxicity to the most sensitive biota dependent upon those waters, or adversely affect public health, as determined by the department.

- (2) The department shall employ or require chemical testing, acute and chronic toxicity testing and biological assessments, as appropriate, to evaluate compliance with subsection (1) of this section and to ensure that aquatic communities and the existing and designated uses of the waters are being fully protected.

**WAC 173-201A-260(2) - Natural conditions and other water quality criteria and applications**

- (1) **Toxics and aesthetics criteria.** The following narrative criteria apply to all existing and designated uses for fresh and marine water:

- (a) Toxic, radioactive, or deleterious material concentrations must be below those which have the potential, either singularly or cumulatively, to adversely affect characteristic water uses, cause acute or chronic conditions to the most sensitive biota dependent upon those waters, or adversely affect public health (see WAC [173-201A-240](#), toxic substances, and [173-201A-250](#), radioactive substances).
- (b) Aesthetic values must not be impaired by the presence of materials or their effects, excluding those of natural origin, which offend the senses of sight, smell, touch, or taste (see WAC [173-201A-230](#) for guidance on establishing lake nutrient standards to protect aesthetics).

**WAC 173-201A-310 - Tier I — Protection and maintenance of existing and designated uses.**

- (1) Existing and designated uses must be maintained and protected. No degradation may be allowed that would interfere with, or become injurious to, existing or designated uses, except as provided for in this chapter.

**WAC 173-201A-510(3) - Means of implementation.**

**(3) Nonpoint source and stormwater pollution.**

- (a) Activities which generate nonpoint source pollution shall be conducted so as to comply with the water quality standards. The primary means to be used for requiring compliance with the standards shall be through best management practices required in waste discharge permits, rules, orders, and directives issued by the department for activities which generate nonpoint source pollution.
- (b) Best management practices shall be applied so that when all appropriate combinations of individual best management practices are utilized, violation of water quality criteria shall be prevented. If a discharger is applying all best management practices appropriate or required by the department and a violation of water quality criteria occurs, the discharger shall modify existing practices or apply further water pollution control measures, selected or approved by the department, to achieve compliance with water quality criteria. Best management practices established in permits, orders, rules, or directives of the department shall be reviewed and modified, as appropriate, so as to achieve compliance with water quality criteria.
- (c) Activities which contribute to nonpoint source pollution shall be conducted utilizing best management practices to prevent violation of water quality criteria. When applicable best management practices are not being implemented, the department may conclude individual

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activities are causing pollution in violation of RCW [90.48.080](#). In these situations, the department may pursue orders, directives, permits, or civil or criminal sanctions to gain compliance with the standards.

**Condition 5.** The Navy shall conduct visual monitoring during simulant testing activities looking for effects to water appearance (e.g., color, sheen, floating debris, etc.) and distressed animals as a result of exposure to chemical or biological simulants.

No degradation may be allowed that would interfere with, or become injurious to, existing or designated uses. By conducting visual monitoring, the Navy will demonstrate whether water quality impacts caused by the simulant testing activity are occurring. Therefore, the Navy shall conduct visual monitoring (i.e., spotting) during this activity, looking for effects to water appearance (e.g., color, sheen, floating debris, etc.) and observations of distressed animals such as marine mammals, seabirds, fish, sea turtles, or shellfish, as a result of exposure to chemical or biological simulants. Any observations of effects to the water appearance or distressed animals as a result of simulant activities shall be recorded and reported to Ecology per Condition 7 below.

Depending on the simulants utilized, disbursement, volumes, etc., it is expected that as the material settles on the water surface it can get concentrated by currents and wind and, as a result, the local exposure might be very high. Further, airborne chemical substances may be inhaled by marine mammals, birds or people at sea or concentrated at the surface and ingested in a different way), and airborne biologics may be inhaled by marine mammals, birds or people at sea or deposited at the sea surface, resulting in a higher contact concentration for seabirds and marine mammals than anticipated.

- The Navy's CD says: *"Clean Water Act/Washington Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 90.48 RCW) – Discharge permits are not required for the Proposed Action. Therefore, this enforceable policy, as it relates to Federal Consistency with the Washington CZMP, is not applicable to the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act". The CD does not include sufficient information regarding the protection of water quality.*

**Applicable Enforceable Policies:**

RCW 90.48 – Water Pollution Control Act

RCW 90.48.080– Discharge of polluting matter in water prohibited

WAC 173-201A – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington

WAC 173-201A-210 – Marine water designated uses and criteria

WAC 173-201A-240 -Toxic substances

WAC 173-201A-260(2) - Natural conditions and other water quality criteria and applications -Toxics and aesthetics criteria.

WAC 173-201A-310 - Tier I — Protection and maintenance of existing and designated uses.

**Condition 6.** Geographic Limitation on Simulant Testing - Simulant testing shall not be conducted within Puget Sound.

While the CD states that simulant testing would be conducted at least 3 nautical miles from shore and the activity appears to be focused in the Offshore Area, Table 3, Summary of Navy Effects Test to Identify Elements of the Proposed Action (Naval Sea Systems Command Testing Activities) with

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Reasonable Foreseeable Coastal Effects, includes a footnote covering the entire Location column, stating that "Locations given are areas where activities typically occur. However, activities could be conducted in other locations within the Study Area." As noted under Condition #5 above, the Ecology is particularly concerned with the potential effects of simulant testing on water quality within Puget Sound, along with effects on coastal resources such as shellfish, plankton, marine mammals such as the Southern Resident orca, seabirds, salmonids, etc. Depending on the simulants used, disbursement, volumes, etc., we would expect that as the material settles on the water surface it can get concentrated by currents and wind and, as a result, the local exposure might be very high. Further, airborne chemical substances may be inhaled by marine mammals, birds or people at sea or concentrated at the surface and ingested in a different way), and airborne biologics may be inhaled by marine mammals, birds or people at sea or deposited at the sea surface, resulting in a higher contact concentration for seabirds and marine mammals than anticipated. Finally, Ecology is concerned about high pH levels that could potentially affect the water quality within marine waters (i.e., ocean acidification), particularly in estuaries and Puget Sound, leading to effects on shellfish, plankton, and other fauna.

*As noted in the Navy's FEIS for these activities (2015, Section 5.5, p. 311):*

Water quality appears poised to have larger-scale effects on the marine ecosystem of the Puget Sound – Georgia Basin as evidenced by the intensity and persistence of water stratification in the basin. Historically, Puget Sound was thought to have an unlimited ability to assimilate waste from cities, farms and industries in the region and decisions about human occupation of the landscape were based on that belief. More recent data suggests that the marine ecosystems of the basin have a much more limited ability to assimilate pollution, particularly in areas such as Hood Canal, south Puget Sound, inner Whidbey basin and the central Georgia Basin. In these areas, as strong stratification has developed and persisted, the respective water quality has steadily decreased. As waters become more stratified, through weather, climate or circulation changes, they become even more limited in their ability to assimilate pollution.

The State of Washington is charged with protecting these waters and the resources which depend on them. Restricting simulant activity from Puget Sound aids in this goal.

- The Navy's CD says: "***Clean Water Act/Washington Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 90.48 RCW)*** – Discharge permits are not required for the Proposed Action. Therefore, this enforceable policy, as it relates to Federal Consistency with the Washington CZMP, is not applicable to the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act". The CD does not include sufficient information regarding the protection of water quality.

**Applicable Enforceable Policies:**

RCW 90.48 – Water Pollution Control Act

RCW 90.48.080– Discharge of polluting matter in water prohibited

WAC 173-201A – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington

WAC 173-201A-210 – Marine water designated uses and criteria

WAC 173-201A-240 -Toxic substances

WAC 173-201A-260(2) - Natural conditions and other water quality criteria and applications -Toxics and aesthetics criteria.

WAC 173-201A-310 - Tier I — Protection and maintenance of existing and designated uses.



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**Condition 7.** The Navy shall notify and submit reports to the Department of Ecology as described below:

- a. The Navy shall immediately report any sheen or unusual appearance on the water surface to Ecology and document these in an annual report. Additionally, any observations of distressed animals as a result of the training and testing activities shall be reported to Ecology immediately and documented in an annual report.
- b. The Navy shall summarize any sheens or unusual appearances on the water surface, as well as any observations of distressed animals per condition 7.a. in an annual report to be submitted to Ecology.
- c. The Navy shall submit to Ecology a copy of any monitoring report that is submitted to NMFS, at the same time the report is submitted per the Biological Opinion.

Immediate reporting to Ecology would provide the State of Washington the opportunity to respond appropriately to impacts on state waters or coastal resources. The annual reporting would capture more fully these effects over a longer timeframe, as well as the monitoring and mitigation activities conducted by the Navy that would support the State's understanding of the effects of the training and testing activities on coastal resources.

#### **Applicable Enforceable Policies**

**RCW 90.48 – Water Pollution Control Act**

**RCW 90.48.080– Discharge of polluting matter in water prohibited**

**WAC 173-201A – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**

**WAC 173-201A-210 – Marine water designated uses and criteria**

**WAC 173-201A-260(2) - Natural conditions and other water quality criteria and applications**

**WAC 173-201A-310 - Tier I — Protection and maintenance of existing and designated uses.**

- The Navy's CD says: "*Clean Water Act/Washington Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 90.48 RCW) – Discharge permits are not required for the Proposed Action. Therefore, this enforceable policy, as it relates to Federal Consistency with the Washington CZMP, is not applicable to the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act*". The CD does not include sufficient information regarding the protection of water quality.

#### **Conclusion**

Ecology fully appreciates and understands that the Navy's Proposed Action is designed to ensure that the Navy can maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas. Ecology also has a responsibility to protect our coastal resources, especially the endangered Southern Resident orcas, other cetaceans and marine mammals, an array of other fish and wildlife species, habitat areas, and water quality. Our conditions are designed to help ensure the Navy's future sea and air training and testing activities are consistent with Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program as well as enforceable policies under the state Ocean Resources Management Act and State Water Pollution Control Act.

We look forward to working with the Navy and other interested parties on this project. Should you have any questions regarding this Conditional Concurrence, please contact Therese Swanson at (360) 407-6789 or [tswa461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tswa461@ecy.wa.gov) or Loree Randall at (360) 485-2796 or [lora461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lora461@ecy.wa.gov).

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#### YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

You have a right to appeal this federal consistency decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001 (2).

To appeal you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision:

- File your appeal and a copy of this decision with the PCHB (see addresses below). Filing means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours.
- Serve a copy of your appeal and this decision on Ecology in paper form - by mail or in person. (See addresses below.) E-mail is not accepted.

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

#### ADDRESS AND LOCATION INFORMATION

| Street Addresses                                                                                         | Mailing Addresses                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Department of Ecology</b><br>Attn: Appeals Processing Desk<br>300 Desmond Drive SE<br>Lacey, WA 98503 | <b>Department of Ecology</b><br>Attn: Appeals Processing Desk<br>PO Box 47608<br>Olympia, WA 98504-7608 |
| <b>Pollution Control Hearings Board</b><br>1111 Israel RD SW<br>STE 301<br>Tumwater, WA 98501            | <b>Pollution Control Hearings Board</b><br>PO Box 40903<br>Olympia, WA 98504-0903                       |

Sincerely,



Brenden McFarland, Section Manager  
Environmental Review and Transportation Section  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Attachments (3): Governor Inslee Letter  
Attorney General Ferguson Letter  
Washington State Agency Letter

EC: Jacqueline Queen, Navy



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John Mosher, Navy  
Laura Watson, Ecology  
Heather Bartlett, Ecology  
Denise Clifford, Ecology  
Sharlatt Mena, Ecology  
Gordon White, Ecology  
Brian Lynn, Ecology  
Loree' Randall, Ecology  
Rebekah Padgett, Ecology  
Jim Baumgart, Governor's Office  
Jennifer Hennessey, Governor's Office  
Tom Young, AAG  
Sonia Wolfman, AAG  
Todd Hass, Puget Sound Partnership  
Laura Blackmore, Puget Sound Partnership  
Jessica Stocking, WDFW  
Julie Watson, WDFW  
Hannah Anderson, WDFW  
Cyrilla Cook, DNR  
David Kaiser, NOAA/OCM  
Kerry Kehoe, NOAA/OCM  
Kris Wall, NOAA/OCM  
ECYREFEDPERMITS

## I.7 Essential Fish Habitat Assessment

### I.7.1 Navy Request Email to National Marine Fisheries Service, Oregon-Washington Coastal Area Office

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Request for EFH Consultation, NWTT Phase 3  
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:42:28 PM

---

In accordance with Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Navy requests consultation for new activities described in the 2019 Draft Supplemental Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). Specifically, the Navy has prepared an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment (EFHA) to address potential impacts associated with the Navy's Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization activity that may adversely affect EFH in the Offshore waters of the NWTT Study Area.

The Navy is not requesting consultation for the continuation of training and testing activities analyzed in the 2015 NWTT EIS/OEIS, which was subject of consultations with NMFS concluding November 2, 2015. There are no significant changes to the activities, geographic parameters, or levels of activities, previously subject to consultation with NMFS that would alter the conclusions from the 2015 EFHA, or affect the basis for NMFS' EFH Conservation Recommendations. Therefore, the Navy is limiting its request for consultation to the Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization activity, which the Navy concludes may adversely affect EFH in the Offshore waters of Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

In accordance with 50 CFR part 600.930(f), the Navy's EFHA is included as Chapter 7 of the Navy's NWTT Biological Assessment. Section 7 consultation for this action is being conducted out of the NMFS Head Quarter Office, and is not being requested at this time.

Additional information regarding this activity, including the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS may be found at the projects website ([www.NWTTIEIS.com](http://www.NWTTIEIS.com)). We appreciate your support in completing this consultation. Contacts for this action will be myself, and the Project's Lead Biologist, Andrea Balla-Holden who can be reached at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Sleeman  
Marine Biologist  
NAVFAC NW  
[REDACTED]

**I.7.2 National Marine Fisheries Service, Oregon-Washington Coastal Area Office Response Email to the Navy**

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Request for EFH Consultation\_NWTT Phase 3  
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 4:21:07 PM

We have received your request for consultation and it has been logged into our database. The number that it has been issued is WCRO-2020-00371. Please refer to that number in future correspondence with NMFS. I have included the branch chief in this email so you are aware of who the project has been given to initially, they will assign it to one of their project managers and that person will be in contact with you. Please send any additional information regarding this project directly to the project manager you are working with.

Frankie Johnson [REDACTED]

On Tue, Feb 11, 2020 at 3:50 PM Sleeman, Stephanie L CIV USN NAVFAC NW SVD WA (USA) [REDACTED] wrote:

In accordance with Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Navy requests consultation for new activities described in the 2019 Draft Supplemental Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). Specifically, the Navy has prepared an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment (EFHA) to address potential impacts associated with the Navy's Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization activity that may adversely affect EFH in the Offshore waters of the NWTT Study Area.

The Navy is not requesting consultation for the continuation of training and testing activities analyzed in the 2015 NWTT EIS/OEIS, which was subject of consultations with NMFS concluding November 2, 2015. There are no significant changes to the activities, geographic parameters, or levels of activities, previously subject to consultation with NMFS that would alter the conclusions from the 2015 EFHA, or affect the basis for NMFS' EFH Conservation Recommendations. Therefore, the Navy is limiting its request for consultation to the Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization activity, which the Navy concludes may adversely affect EFH in the Offshore waters of Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

In accordance with 50 CFR part 600.930(f), the Navy's EFHA is included as Chapter 7 of the Navy's NWTT Biological Assessment. Section 7 consultation for this action is being conducted out of the NMFS Head Quarter Office, and is not being requested at this time.

Additional information regarding this activity, including the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS may be found at the projects website ([www.NWTTIEIS.com](http://www.NWTTIEIS.com)). We appreciate your support in completing this consultation. Contacts for this action will be myself, and the Project's Lead Biologist, Andrea Balla-Holden who can be reached at [REDACTED], or at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Stephanie Sleeman

Marine Biologist

## I.8 National Historic Preservation Act Compliance

### I.8.1 Navy Letters to Washington State Historic Preservation Officer



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND  
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE  
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

5090  
Ser N465/0595  
February 16, 2018

Allyson Brooks, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 48343  
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Dr. Brooks:


SUBJECT: INITIATION OF CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 106 OF THE  
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT FOR NORTHWEST  
TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Navy would like to initiate consultation on proposed training and testing activities to occur in Washington State beginning in 2020. The purpose of the proposed undertaking is to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces. The Navy is currently preparing a Supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) with the same Study Area, including areas of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, areas off the coast of Washington State, and designated airspace over the Olympic Peninsula. The Navy requests to enter into consultation in defining the appropriate Area of Potential Effects (APE).

In order to meet its obligations under Section 106 and its implementing regulations, the Navy will use the NWT Supplemental EIS/OEIS public involvement processes (e.g., public scoping and public review) to partially fulfill its public notification and consultation requirements, as well as a separate Section 106 process involving interested and potential consulting parties.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, my point of contact for this proposed undertaking is Mr. David Grant, Archaeologist, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, (360) 396-0919 or [dave.m.grant@navy.mil](mailto:dave.m.grant@navy.mil).

Sincerely,

  
G. C. MOORE  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND  
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE  
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

5090  
Ser N44/1026  
20 May 19

Allyson Brooks, PhD  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1110 South Capital Way, Suite 30  
P.O. Box 48343  
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Dear Dr. Brooks:

SUBJECT: LOG NO. 2018-02-01511-USN: CONTINUING SECTION 106  
CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS  
FOR NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Navy has determined the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) for Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) activities specific to the State of Washington. The undertaking is scheduled to begin in 2020 and the majority of activities would be the same as or similar to the previous NWTT undertaking. The proposed undertaking entails over 50 activities, more than 30 of which occur within Washington or between state waters and territorial waters 12 nautical miles from its shore, and approximately 20 activities having potential to directly or indirectly affect historic properties (Enclosure 1). Section 106 consultations for earlier phases of NWTT based the APE on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 'Study Area', which included Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, offshore ranges, and coastal areas and designated airspace. However, for this consultation, the Navy will more appropriately define the APE in accordance with the applicability, directives, and definitions provided by 36 CFR 800.

Based on the scale and nature of the proposed NWTT undertaking, the Navy has determined that there is no potential to directly or indirectly affect the qualifying characteristics or use of historic properties associated with the established air space. The Navy maintains that Day Night Average Sound Levels (DNLs) exceeding 65 decibels (dB) remain the most reliable, tested, and defensible basis for assessing audible effects. The most current noise analysis does not identify any areas in the NWTT study area exceeding 37 dB DNL. Additionally, continuing aircraft flights within the altitude restrictions of established air space will not introduce new atmospheric or visual elements that may indirectly affect historic properties.

Accordingly, the proposed NWTT APE (Enclosures 2 and 3) comprises areas where historic properties could be directly affected by incidental disturbance and compression of littoral and seafloor sediments via tracked or wheeled vehicles, anchors, other seafloor devices, or explosions; destruction or damage to shipwrecks, submerged aircraft, or other historic or pre-contact structures standing proud of the seafloor from anchors or other seafloor devices; disturbance of pre-contact inundated archaeological deposits from anchors, other seafloor

5090  
Ser N44/


devices, or explosions; or any other activities with potential to affect historic properties themselves. The APE also includes areas where indirect effects may change a submerged historic property's character or use by deposition of military expended materials like sonobuoys and other single-use items.

To identify properties with possible religious or cultural significance to affected tribes, the Navy has initiated consultation with 26 federally recognized Washington tribes with traditional ties to the proposed APE. In addition, the following parties have expressed interest in participating in the Section 106 process:

- National Park Service
- Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Olympic Forest Coalition
- West Coast Action Alliance
- Skagit Audubon Society
- Individual Members of the Public

Should you have any questions or require additional information, my point of contact for this proposed undertaking is Mr. David Grant, Archaeologist, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, (360) 396-0919 or [dave.m.grant@navy.mil](mailto:dave.m.grant@navy.mil).

Sincerely,

  
M. L. ARNY  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Spreadsheet of activities within 12 nautical miles with a potential to affect  
2. Proposed Offshore Area APE  
3. Proposed Inland Waters APE

Copy to: 1. National Park Service  
2. Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve  
3. National Parks Conservation Association  
4. Olympic Forest Coalition  
5. West Coast Action Alliance  
6. Skagit Audubon Society  
7. Dr. Beverly Goldie  
8. Ms. Rhea Miller

9. Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
10. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
11. Cowlitz Indian Tribe
12. Hoh Indian Tribe
13. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
14. Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
15. Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation
16. Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Reservation
17. Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of the Muckleshoot Reservation
18. Nisqually Indian Tribe of the Nisqually Reservation
19. Nooksack Indian Tribe of Washington
20. Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
21. Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation
22. Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation
23. Quinault Indian Nation
24. Samish Indian Nation
25. Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
26. Shoalwater Bay Tribe of the Shoalwater Bay Reservation
27. Skokomish Indian Tribe
28. Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
29. Squaxin Island Tribe of the Squaxin Island Reservation
30. Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians of Washington
31. Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation
32. Swinomish Indians of the Swinomish Reservation of Washington
33. Tulalip Tribes of Washington
34. Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
35. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation



Enclosure 1. Activities occurring within 12nm of Washington shore.<sup>1</sup>

| Activity                                                                                 | Description (extracted from Appendix A Draft V2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Location                                                                                                                                                                     | Potential Effect to Historic Properties                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Air Combat Maneuver</b>                                                               | Basic flight maneuvers in which fixed-wing aircrew engage in offensive and defensive maneuvering against each other.                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>W-237<br>Olympic MOA                                                                                                                                 | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Electronic Warfare Training</b>                                                       | Aircraft and ship crews control the electromagnetic spectrum used by enemy systems to degrade or deny the enemy's ability to take defensive actions. Electronic Warfare Operations can be active or passive, offensive or defensive.                                                                                            | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>W-237<br>Olympic MOA                                                                                                                                 | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Civilian Port Defense—Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises</b> | Naval forces conduct mine warfare training in conjunction with Department of Homeland Security units. Helicopters, surface ships, and undersea (divers, marine mammals, and unmanned vehicles) mine countermeasures will be used. Non-permanent mine shapes will be laid in various places on the bottom and will be retrieved. | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>Naval Magazine<br>Indian Island (NAVMAG);<br>Naval Station Everett (NSE)<br>NBK Bangor<br>Bremerton<br>Manchester<br>Port Angeles<br>Port of Seattle | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments by anchors for mine shapes<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                      |
| <b>Mine Neutralization – Explosive Ordnance Disposal</b>                                 | Navy divers disable threat mines with explosive charges to create a safe channel for friendly vessels to transit. Personnel detect, identify, evaluate, and neutralize mines in the water with an explosive device and may involve detonation.                                                                                  | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>Crescent Harbor EOD Training Range (CH EOD TR)<br>Hood Canal EOD Training Range (HC EOD TR)                                                          | <b>Direct:</b> damage to submerged historic properties from explosive shock wave<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                   |
| <b>Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance</b>                                        | Maritime Patrol Aircraft and unmanned aerial systems operators use all available sensors to collect data on threat vessels. Passive sonobuoys are used to collect and analyze acoustic data, and photographic equipment is used to document the vessel with visual information.                                                 | <b>Offshore Area</b><br><br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>Restricted Area (RA)<br>6701<br>NAVY 7 OPAREA                                                                            | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as sonobuoys, parachutes/decelerators, wires |
| <b>Maritime Security Operations</b>                                                      | Maritime security operations are predominantly maritime security escort events, including the Transit Protection Program (TPP) and training of other escort units.                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>Bremerton<br>Hood Canal<br>Dabob Bay                                                                                                                 | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as blank                                     |

<sup>1</sup> The following activities occur beyond 12 nautical miles from shore or only in Alaska (SEAFAC) and therefore not addressed further: **Gunnery Exercise Surface-to-Air; Missile Exercise Air-to-Air; Missile Exercise Surface-to-Air; Anti-Submarine Warfare Torpedo Exercise—Submarine; Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Helicopter; Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise—Maritime Patrol Aircraft; Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise—Ship; Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise—Submarine; Bombing Exercise Air-to-Surface; Gunnery Exercise Surface-to-Surface – Ship; Missile Exercise Air-to-Surface; Torpedo (explosive) Testing; Kinetic Energy Weapon Testing; Vessel Signature Evaluation; Hydrodynamic and Maneuverability Testing; Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Test—Maritime Patrol Aircraft**



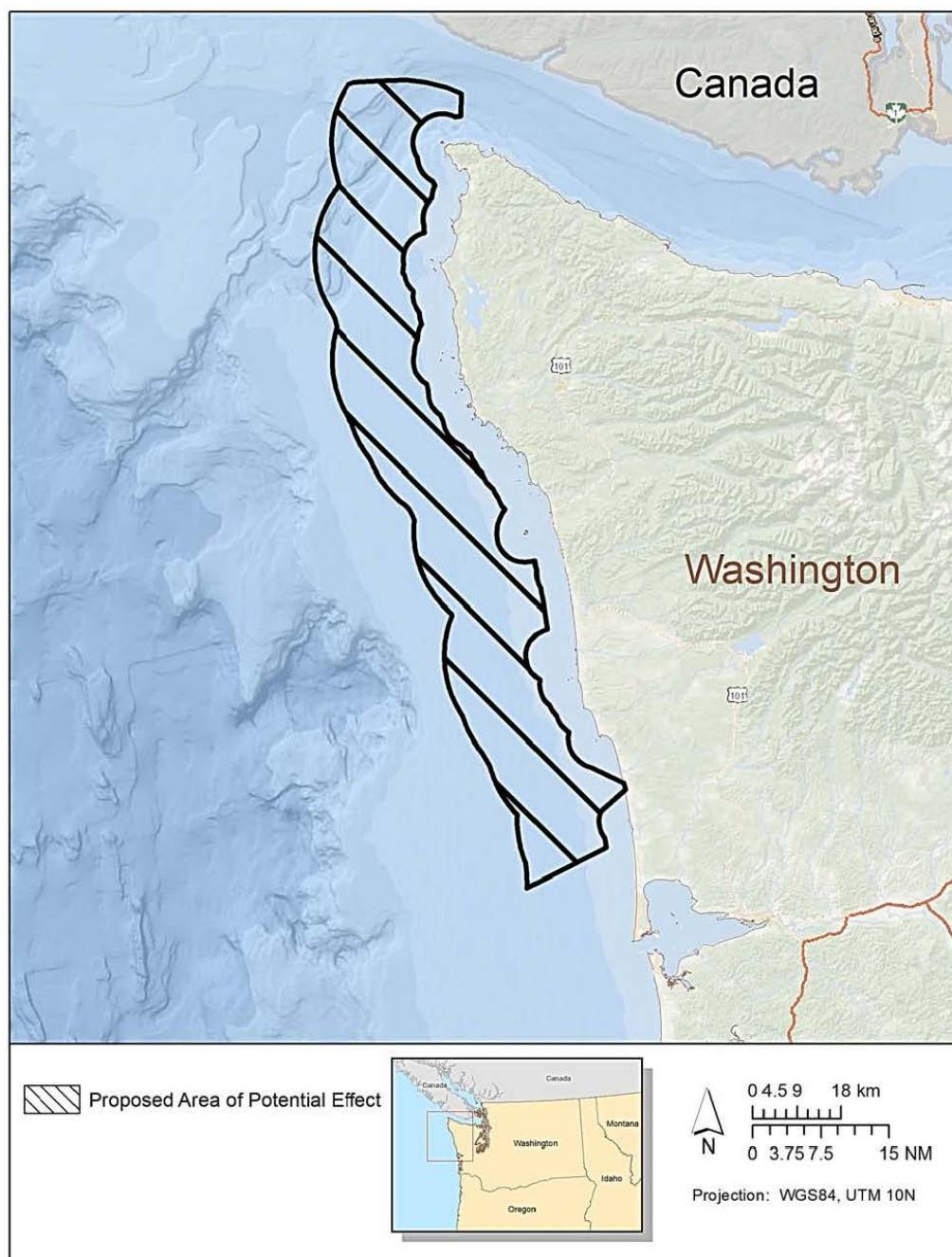
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|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                | All shell casings associated with use of blank ammunition shall be captured, to the greatest extent feasible, using either cofferdams around guns, capture bins, or capture on the deck of vessels.                                                                                                                    | TPS Route (169)<br>NSE<br>Puget Sound<br>Strait of Juan de Fuca                                                                                                                                    | ammunition brass, disintegrating ammunition belt links, and pyrotechnic parts and fragments                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Personnel Insertion/Extraction Training—Non-Submersible</b> | Military personnel train for clandestine insertion and extraction into target areas using rotary wing aircraft, fixed-wing aircraft (insertion only), or small boats.                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>CH EOD TR<br>NAVY 7 OPAREA                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Precision Anchoring</b>                                     | Surface ship crews release and retrieve anchors in designated locations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>Designated areas near NAVMAG<br>NSE,<br>NAVY 3 OPAREA,<br>Eastern Bank Area                                                                                                | <b>Direct:</b> damage to submerged historic properties from anchors contacting and penetrating seafloor<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                            |
| <b>Search and Rescue</b>                                       | Helicopter crews rescue military personnel at sea. Helicopters fly below 3,000 ft. and locate personnel to be rescued, hover, recover the survivor, and then depart.                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>CH EOD TR<br>RA 6701                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Small Boat Attack Exercise</b>                              | Small boat crews engage pier side surface targets with small-caliber weapons. Only blank rounds are fired. Duration of firing will be approximately 2 hours with a total of 1,000 rounds fired the first day, and a duration of 1.5 hours with a total of 1,000 rounds fired the second day.                           | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>NSE<br>NBK Bangor<br>Bremerton                                                                                                                                             | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as ammunition brass and disintegrating ammunition belt links |
| <b>Submarine Sonar Maintenance</b>                             | Submarines conduct maintenance to their sonar systems in shallow water near their homeport; however, sonar maintenance could occur at sea as the system's performance may warrant.                                                                                                                                     | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>NBK Bremerton<br>NBK Bangor                                                                                                       | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Surface Ship Sonar Maintenance</b>                          | Surface ships perform periodic maintenance to the sonar and other systems while in port or at sea. Surface ships operate active sonar systems for maintenance while in shallow water near their homeport; however, sonar maintenance could occur anywhere.                                                             | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>NSE<br>Bremerton                                                                                                                  | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training</b>                    | Training with unmanned platforms on which various payloads are attached and used for different purposes. Training can range from basic remote control and autonomous navigation tests to deployment and activation of onboard systems that may include hydrodynamic instruments, launchers, and recovery capabilities. | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Quinalt Range Site<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>CH EOD TR, Dabob<br>Bay Range Complex (DBRC), NBK Bangor, Bremerton, Keyport Range, Manchester, NAVY 3 OPAREA, NAVY 7 OPAREA | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments by anchors for instruments<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                      |

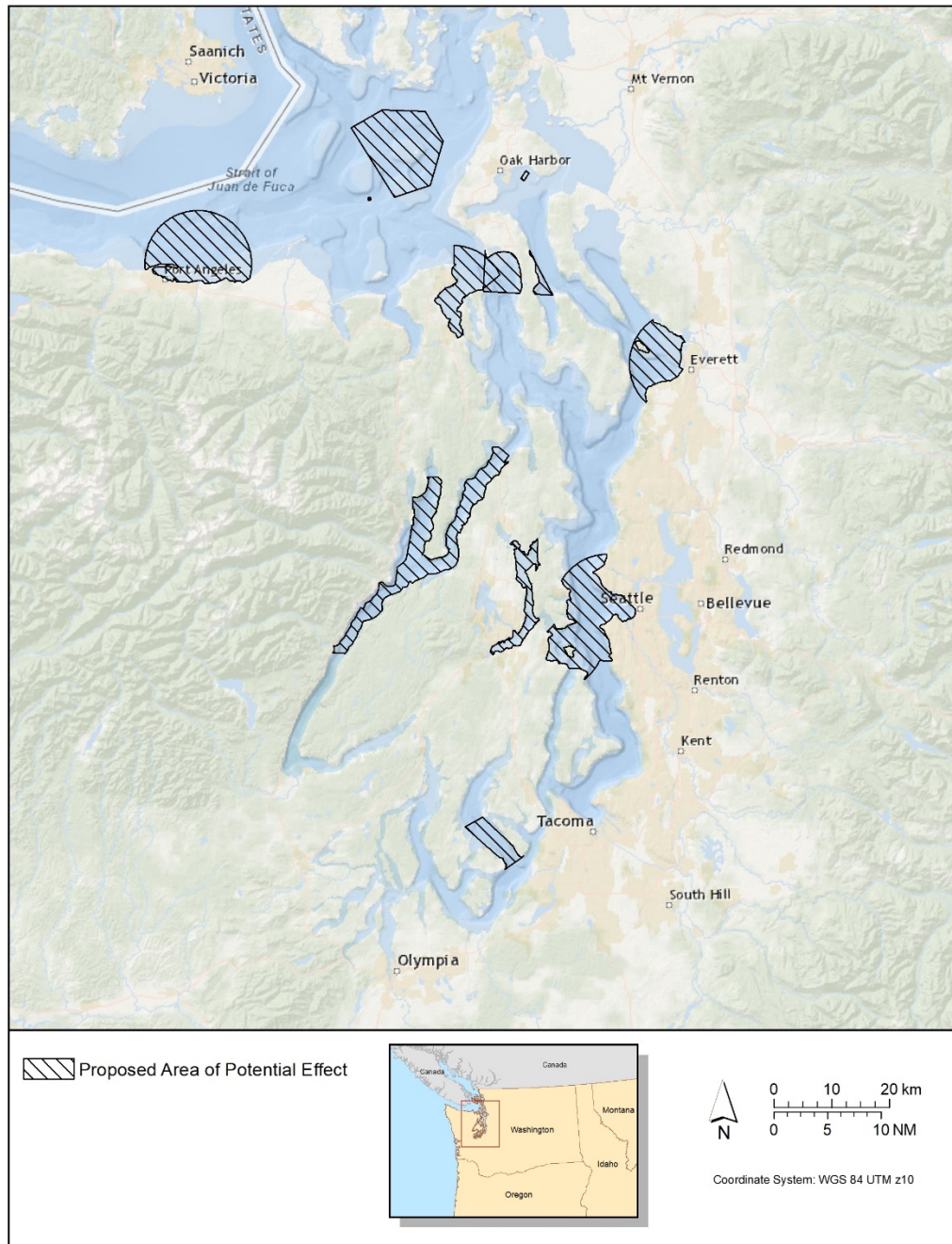
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|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Anti-Submarine Warfare Testing</b>                 | Ships conduct operations using airborne and surface assets. Active and passive acoustic systems are used to detect and track submarine targets, culminating in the deployment of lightweight torpedoes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area                                                                                                               | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as torpedo accessories, decelerator/parachute, sonobuoys, and wires.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>At-Sea Sonar Testing</b>                           | At-sea sonar testing verifies the vessel meets design acoustic specifications, defines the underwater characteristics, determines effects of systems and equipment on ship's acoustic characteristics, and provides for design improvements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area<br><br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC                                                                           | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as torpedo accessories, decelerator/parachute, sonobuoys, and wires.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Countermeasure Testing</b>                         | Countermeasure testing evaluates the deployment, operation, and effectiveness of systems used to defend a vessel from an incoming threat. Countermeasures may be mechanical, chemical, or electronic devices that are released from a vessel to obscure its location or provide a false target. Countermeasures may also be systems operated from within the vessel to detect, localize, track, and respond to incoming threats. Most components are used off shore and are consumed, dissipate, or recovered. | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Quinalt Range Site<br><br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC<br>Keyport Range                                                     | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as torpedo accessories, mobile subsurface target, and guidance wire.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Pierside Sonar Testing</b>                         | Ships and submarines will activate mid- and high-frequency tactical sonars, underwater communications systems, and navigational devices. Testing may include the firing of inert torpedo shapes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>NBK Bangor<br>Bremerton<br>NSE                                                                                              | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Torpedo (non-explosive) Testing</b>                | Aerial, surface, and subsurface assets fire exercise torpedoes against surface or subsurface targets, or programmed with a particular run geometry. Exercise torpedoes are typically recovered by ships and helicopters designed for this task.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC                                                                               | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments from anchors for stationary surface targets<br><br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as small decelerator/parachutes, acoustic countermeasures, buoy (non-explosive), torpedo accessories, mobile sub-surface target, sonobuoy, sonobuoy wires, guidance wire |
| <b>Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing</b> | These systems may be deployed with a variety of ships, aircraft, submarines, or UAVs. Mines are neutralized by cutting mooring cables of buoyant mines, producing acoustic energy that fires acoustic-influence mines; or by employing radar or laser fields, detonate mines using remotely-operated vehicles, and use explosive charges to destroy threat mines.                                                                                                                                              | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area (no explosives in OCNMS)<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>Bremerton<br>Carr Inlet<br>CH EOD TR<br>DBRC<br>HC EOD TR | <b>Direct:</b> explosive shock wave and incidental disturbance of sediments from anchors for mine shapes<br><br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as fiber optic wires and cables                                                                                                                                |

|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | NSE<br>Keyport Range<br>NAVMAG<br>NAVY 3 OPAREA                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Mine Detection and Classification Testing</b> | Systems may use acoustic, electro-optic, or laser sensors, and may be deployed from aircraft, surface or subsurface vessels, or unmanned platforms.                                                                                                                                              | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Quinalt Range Site<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC<br>Keyport Range               | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments from anchors from mine shapes (in place up to 12 months)<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Unmanned Aerial System Testing</b>            | UASs are remotely piloted or self-piloted (i.e., preprogrammed flight pattern) aircraft that include fixed-wing, rotary-wing, and other vertical takeoff vehicles. They can carry cameras, sensors, communications equipment, or other payloads.                                                 | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Quinalt Range Site<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC<br>Keyport Range<br>RA 6701    | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Unmanned Surface Vehicle System Testing</b>   | Unmanned surface vehicles (USV) can include remotely operated craft and test vehicles. During testing, they can operate autonomously, semi-autonomously, or non-autonomously.                                                                                                                    | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Quinalt Range Site<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC<br>Keyport Range               | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments from anchors for stationary surface targets<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Testing</b>       | UUVs may be developed to carry out warfare missions (e.g., mine detection) or scientific missions (e.g., bottom mapping), while others are developed to support other testing objectives (e.g., performing as a target for anti-submarine warfare).                                              | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Quinalt Range Site<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>Carr Inlet<br>DBRC<br>Keyport Range | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments from anchors for stationary surface and sub-surface targets<br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as torpedo accessories, mobile sub-surface target, decelerator/parachutes, wires, and cables  |
| <b>Propulsion Testing</b>                        | Propulsion testing is one part of the total sea trial activity. The ship is tested for maneuverability, including full power and endurance runs.                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area beyond 3 nm                                                         | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Undersea Warfare Testing</b>                  | Undersea warfare testing includes demonstrating the ability of the ship to search, detect, and track a target and conduct attacks with exercise torpedoes. Subsurface moving targets, rocket and air-dropped weapons, sonobuoys, towed arrays, and sub-surface torpedo-like devices may be used. | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area                                                                     | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of military expended materials (MEM) such as decelerator/parachutes, acoustic countermeasures, expendable bathythermograph and wire, torpedo accessories, mobile subsurface target, sonobuoy and wires, and other cables and wires |
| <b>Vessel Signature Evaluation</b>               | Signature testing is passive monitoring of surface ships and submarines to assess the vessel's vulnerability to various types of detection systems.                                                                                                                                              | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC                                                                              | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Acoustic and Oceanographic Research</b>       | Active acoustic transmissions used for tests of acoustic sources, validation of ocean acoustic models, tests of signal processing algorithms, and                                                                                                                                                | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Quinalt Range Site<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC                                | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments from anchors for instruments<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                          | characterization of acoustic interactions with the ocean bottom, fish and ocean surface.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Keyport Range                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Acoustic Component Testing</b>        | Pier side testing includes evaluation and troubleshooting of acoustic components. ROVs may be used to deploy sensors below the water line.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>NBK Bangor<br>Bremerton<br>NSE<br>NAVMAG                                                                  | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                           |
| <b>Cold Water Support</b>                | Training for divers in a cold water diver training environment, and other training supporting range/test facility operations and maintenance. Includes hand-held acoustic systems, underwater communication devices, in-water devices for transporting divers or cargo, and various dive targets such as mine-like shapes.                                                | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>Carr Inlet<br>DBRC<br>Keyport Range                                                                       | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments from mine shape anchors<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                    |
| <b>Non-Acoustic Component Testing</b>    | Radio communication with submarines using tethered, untethered, or towed buoyant in-water devices to raise an antenna to the surface to broadcast the signal. Test may involve radar, environmental sensors, magnetic, passive acoustic, or optical instrumentation to measure, record, and analyze effectiveness, dependability, operational parameters, and durability. | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area<br><b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC<br>Keyport Range<br>Keyport Pier<br>NBK Bangor<br>Zelatched | <b>Direct:</b> instruments placed on bottom<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                   |
| <b>Post Refit Sea Trial</b>              | Testing activities following maintenance or repairs to evaluate submarine propulsion, sonar systems, and other mechanical tests.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC                                                                                                      | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                           |
| <b>Radar and other System Testing</b>    | At-sea testing may include use of military or commercial radar, communication systems, simulators, or high-energy lasers. Testing of air and surface targets may include UAVs or small craft (e.g., floating cardboard tri-walls, towed, anchored, or self-propelled vessels).                                                                                            | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area                                                                                             | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> introduction of incompatible visual elements from deposition of MEM such as expendable drone, target fragments |
| <b>Semi-Stationary Equipment Testing</b> | Semi-stationary equipment calibration and testing is performed from a fixed site, suspended over the side of a boat, moored to the bottom, suspended in the water column, or on the surface; all devices and their anchors are recovered.                                                                                                                                 | <b>Inland Waters</b><br>DBRC<br>Keyport Range                                                                                     | <b>Direct:</b> incidental disturbance of sediments from placement/removal of seafloor devices such as anchors<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                 |
| <b>Simulant Testing</b>                  | The capabilities of defense systems to detect and protect in the event of chemical and biological attacks are tested via deployment of harmless compounds as substitutes for warfare agents.                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area beyond<br>3 nm                                                                              | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                           |
| <b>ISR/EW Triton Testing</b>             | Testing will evaluate the sensors and communication systems on board the MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial system at a high altitude (50,000 feet above sea level).                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Offshore Area</b><br>Offshore Area                                                                                             | <b>Direct:</b> none<br><b>Indirect:</b> none                                                                                                           |







I.8.2 Washington State Historic Preservation Officer Response Letters to the Navy



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

June 17, 2019

Mr. M. L. Army  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island  
3730 North Charles Porter Avenue  
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-5000

In future correspondence please refer to:  
Project Tracking Code: 2018-02-01511  
Re: NW Training & Testing Activities (NWTT)

Dear Captain Army:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The above referenced project has been reviewed on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and 36 CFR Part 800. Our review is based upon documentation contained in your communication.

We understand, based on your letter, that you are the appropriate federal person to receive our comments as per 36 CFR 800. We do not agree with the Area of Potential Effect (APE) that you have proposed, as it does not include all areas that will be affected by direct effects such as noise. The DC circuit court just issued an opinion on Dominion Virginia Power Towers that concluded indirect effects, such as visual or noise, can be considered direct impacts to historic properties. This needs to be considered in your Section 106 consultation, including the definition of the APE.

Our concerns center on the undertaking's proposed effects to cultural and historic resources from Whidbey Island to the training area. We are specifically concerned with the impact of noise levels and the frequency of elevated sound levels. We would expect that the APE to include all historic districts and cultural landscapes in the Puget Sound Basin, Salish Sea, and Strait of Juan de Fuca that will be affected by jet and ocean training noise.

During the consultation on the additional Growlers, we were adamant that the 65 DBL was not a meaningful measure of actual sound levels when determining the boundaries for the APE. The decibel level chosen was an average, as opposed to a direct impact, which was above 100 DBL. We are maintaining that concern during the consultation process for NWTT. As such, we are requesting that proposed APE maps of the region include the flight patterns and transit routes that will be used by the planes to reach the training and testing areas. Please provide DAHP and the other consulting parties with these maps, so that we can properly consult on the APE.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in conformance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 CFR 800. Also, we appreciate receiving copies of any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes and other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36 CFR 800.4(a)(4). Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised.

State of Washington • Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343 • (360) 586-3065  
www.dahp.wa.gov





Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Please ensure that the DAHP Project Number (a.k.a. Project Tracking Code) is shared with any hired cultural resource consultants and is attached to any communications or submitted reports. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Kate Valdez (Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation)  
Dan Penn (Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation)  
Nathan Reynolds (Cowlitz Indian Tribe)  
Alexis Barry (Hoh Indian Tribe)  
David Brownell (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe)  
Bill White (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe)  
Lena Tso (Lummi Nation)  
Janine Ledford (Makah Tribe)  
Laura Murphy (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe)  
Annette Bullchild (Nisqually Indian Tribe)  
Trevor Delgado (Nooksack Tribe)  
Stormy Purser (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe)  
Brandon Reynon (Puyallup Tribe)  
Rio Jaime (Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation)  
Justine James (Quinault Nation)  
Jackie Ferry (Samish Indian Nation)  
The Honorable Kevin Joseph (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe)  
Earl Davis (Shoalwater Bay Tribe)  
Kris Miller (Skokomish Tribe)  
Steven Mullen-Moses (Snoqualmie Indian Tribe)  
Rhonda Foster (Squaxin Island Tribe)  
Kerry Lyste (Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians of Washington)  
Dennis Lewarch (Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation)  
Josephine Jefferson (Swinomish Indian Tribal Community)  
Richard Young (Tulalip Tribes)  
Scott Schuyler (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe)  
Roy Zipp (National Park Service)  
Kristen Griffin (Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve)  
Rob Smith (National Parks Conservation Association)  
Patricia Jones (Olympic Forest Coalition)  
Karen Sullivan (West Coast Action Alliance c/o Olympic Forest Coalition)  
Reid Nelson (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation)  
Timothy Manss (Skagit Audubon Society)  
Rhea Miller  
Beverly Goldie

State of Washington • Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343 • (360) 586-3065  
[www.dahp.wa.gov](http://www.dahp.wa.gov)







Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

July 22, 2020

Captain M.L. Army  
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island  
3730 North Charles Porter Avenue  
Oak Harbor, Washington 98278-5000

Re: Northwest Testing & Training Project  
Log No.: 021314-41-USN

Dear Captain Army,

Thank you for contacting our department. We have reviewed the materials you provided for the proposed Northwest Testing & Training Project within Washington.

We do not concur with your Determination of No Historic Properties Affected.

While we appreciate the detailed recitations in your letter, there is, as of this date, no professionally authored cultural resources report with the relevant sub-discipline reports on each of the types of cultural resources in the Area of Potential Effect, nor are there any completed site forms in the Wisard under this project.

What is particularly important in any report, and especially for one of this type of undertaking, is actual field work testing and analyzing the assumptions built into your analysis.

While we appreciate your recitation of tribal outreach efforts and purported consultations, what is missing is the actual substantive results from your efforts. You note that specific tribes have requested the Navy conduct traditional cultural place studies and landscape scale analysis, but this has not been done.

Given the scale of the undertaking and the acknowledgment of the traditional cultural values associated with the Salish Sea we believe a more robust effort is necessary for the Navy to undertake the requested professional studies.

We believe much additional professional work is needed to arrive at a correct determination of effect that will reflect the true scale of the Navy's impact to significant cultural resources in the Salish Sea.

Given your acknowledged uncertainties on the information and effects we believe continued consultations are necessary both to resolve the information needs and also to create and implement a collaborative monitoring program to assure effects are carefully monitored and mitigation efforts can be successfully implemented.

State of Washington • Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343 • (360) 586-3065  
[www.dahp.wa.gov](http://www.dahp.wa.gov)



We look forward to further consultations and the development of a correct determination of effect and an agreed upon monitoring effort during the life of the undertaking.

We appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36CFR800.4(a)(4).

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on the behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in conformance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36CFR800. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and a copy of these comments should be included in subsequent environmental documents.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.  
State Archaeologist  
(360) 586-3080  
email: [rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov)



I.8.3 Navy Letter to Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL BASE KITSAP  
120 SOUTH DEWEY ST  
BREMERTON, WA 98314-5020

5090  
Ser PRB4/00487  
9 Mar 18

Ms. Judith E. Bittner  
Chief, Office of History and Archaeology, and State Historic  
Preservation Officer (SHPO)  
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING (NWT)  
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106  
CONSULTATION

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning the status of the Navy's continuation of military training and testing activities that were previously the subject of consultation with your office (File number 3130-IR Navy). Although some levels of activities have increased or decreased, the types of activities have not changed. Therefore, the potential for the activities to affect historic properties has not changed nor has the area of potential effect (APE). The Navy is continuing public outreach with local communities and government-to-government consultation with five affected tribes. The Navy will take into consideration new information about historic properties if received, however, at this time none of the criteria for re-initiation of consultation as set forth in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §800 are triggered.

The undertaking will continue to occur in established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the eastern North Pacific Ocean, including the Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility in Western Behm Canal (Enclosure 1). The Navy determined the nature of the testing activities had low potential to affect any unidentified properties, let alone affect character defining features that would qualify submerged structures or objects for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or result in potential loss of information from inundated archaeological deposits. Accordingly, the Navy determined the proposed undertaking would result in No Adverse Effect on Historic Properties in a letter dated June 23, 2015

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING (NWTI)  
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106  
CONSULTATION

(received by your office on June 30, 2015). Your office  
concurred with this determination on July 20, 2015.

Because the Navy's training and testing activities and the  
APE remain the same, the Navy's previous determination of No  
Adverse Effect on Historic Properties remains unchanged. None  
of the circumstances articulated at 36 C.F.R. § 800.8(c)(5) are  
present. Therefore, the Navy is not requesting to reinitiate  
consultation at this time.

If you need additional information or have questions, please  
feel free to contact Mr. David Grant, who can be reached at  
(360) 396-0919 or via email at dave.m.grant@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



E. A. Schrader  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

I.8.4 Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer Response Letter to the Navy

---

**From:** Grant, Dave M CIV NAVFAC NW, EV9  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:28 AM  
**To:** Queen, Jacqueline M CIV NAVFAC NW, PRW4; Mosher, John G CIV COMPACFLT, N465JM; Thedwall, Craig S CDR NLSC, RLSO NW, SJA; Thompson, Sean M. CDR COMPACFLT N465; Kler, Kimberly H CIV NAVFAC NW, EV21; Abramson, Kerry L CAPT COMPACFLT N46  
**Subject:** FW: Northwest Training and Testing  
**Signed By:**

Per action item from T21 Feb NWTT Tribal/Cultural Working Group meeting.

-----Original Message-----

From: Meitl, Sarah J (DNR)  
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 5:09 PM  
To: Grant, Dave M CIV NAVFAC NW, EV9  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Northwest Training and Testing

File No. 3130-1R / 2018-00375

Hi Dave,

Thank you for contacting our office. As we discussed over the phone, the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office received correspondence from the Navy concerning the continuation of Northwest Training and Testing in March of 2018. Our office reviewed the project and agreed that it did not require re-initiation of Section 106 consultation. We logged the project in our database and listed our action as "No Response Necessary" on April 26, 2018. Please contact me if you have any questions or if our office can be of further assistance.

Best,

Sarah Meitl

Review and Compliance Coordinator

Alaska State Historic Preservation Office / Office of History and Archaeology

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310

Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

## I.9 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Consultation

### I.9.1 Navy Request Letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



#### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
260 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96880-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N465/0555  
April 29, 2020

Ms. Vicki Wedell  
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Permit Coordinator  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Wedell:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION FOR U.S. NAVY TRAINING AND  
TESTING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL  
MARINE SANCTUARY

In accordance with Section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the U.S. Navy submits the enclosed Sanctuary Resource Statement (SRS) to initiate consultation for the Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) activities that overlap with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS).

The proposed action may incidentally expose marine resources within the OCNMS to sound and other environmental stressors associated with training and testing activities. The activities are described and analyzed in the SRS.

We appreciate your continued support in helping the U.S. Navy meet its environmental responsibilities. My point of contact is Ms. Andrea Balla-Holden (360) 396-0002.

Sincerely,

MCNAIRDANIELAN  
THONY.1166125894

Digitally signed by  
MCNAIRDANIELANTHONY.116612  
5894  
Date: 2020.04.29 11:24:57 -1000'

D. A. McNAIR  
Director, Fleet Environmental Readiness Division  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: 1. SRS for the U.S. Navy's NWT activities in the OCNMS

Copy to: Ms. Leila Hatch, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
Ms. Carol Bernthal, Superintendent, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
Ms. Jolie Harrison, F/PR1 Office of Protected Resources  
Ms. Kris Peterson, F/PR5, Office of Protected Resources  
COMNAVSEASYSOM  
COMNAVAIRSYSOM

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## Appendix J: Airspace Noise Analysis for the Olympic Military Operations Area





## Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

### Northwest Training and Testing

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## **APPENDIX J AIRSPACE NOISE ANALYSIS FOR THE OLYMPIC MILITARY OPERATIONS AREA**

### **J.1 INTRODUCTION**

This noise study is a component of the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (Supplemental). This study models the noise from aircraft while conducting training activities within the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) and Warning Area 237A (W-237A), and while transiting to and from the Olympic MOA and W-237A. The transit of aircraft to and from these areas is also discussed in the body of this Supplemental in Section 2.3.3.2 (Sea Space and Airspace Deconfliction), Section 3.0.3.1.3.1 (Navigation and Safety), and Section 3.12.3.2.1.1 (Impacts on Airborne Acoustics Under Alternative 1 for Training Activities). The noise model utilizes a database of measured aircraft noise levels under different flyover conditions. The results of this study were used throughout the body of this Supplemental to support the analysis and effects determinations for resources such as birds, cultural resources, American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources, and socioeconomic resources and environmental justice.

Computer modeling is the preferred and most common method of analyzing the military noise environment. Computer modeling accurately predicts the noise environment for all military operations, using source data collected under strictly controlled conditions. For example, each measured sound level is associated with a specific operating condition, such as power, distance, and speed. In addition, noise models can account for widely varying environmental conditions. The models also can predict noise exposure from existing and proposed operations over vast geographic areas, such as the Olympic MOA.

The Department of Defense's (DoD) policy is to utilize modeling rather than monitoring for activities in special use airspace (SUA) such as a MOA. Operational/environmental noise scientists employ noise modeling to predict noise levels in SUA in a cost-effective, accurate manner. Noise modeling allows the prediction of noise levels at many locations for a given set of conditions, including current and proposed conditions (Federal Aviation Administration, 2015).

Noise monitoring is at best a sampling of activity. If that activity is highly predictable and repeatable, such as may be exhibited by aircraft flying in a landing pattern, then monitoring, over a period of time in different environmental conditions, can be of some value. While noise monitoring can provide actual sound levels, the results are valid only for that moment, in that location, in only the conditions occurring at that time. Monitoring cannot predict sound levels for proposed activities or for activities that will vary, such as aircraft maneuvering outside of a set pattern while operating in a MOA.

In order to best evaluate the potential impacts associated with the Navy's proposed activities in the Olympic MOA and while transiting to and from the Olympic MOA, the Navy must use a predictive methodology such as modeling. The noise model used, MOA and Route NoiseMap Model (MRNMap), is approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for these types of analyses (Federal Aviation Administration, 2015).

### **J.2 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this noise study is to document potential changes to the noise environment within and around the SUA of the Olympic MOA and W-237A for operations of the EA-18G Growler, P-3C Orion, P-8A Poseidon, and F-15 Eagle. This noise analysis is an update to the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS

published in October of 2015. Therefore, this analysis serves to update the modeled noise environment between reference training activities based on historical data and a future proposed state. Changes to this analysis include new levels of flight activities in the MOA and inclusion of aircraft transits in the analysis of impacts. The Navy recognizes that aircraft operating within the MOA as well as transiting to and from the MOA can be audible outside the boundaries of the MOA (see Table J-15). Aircraft activities within the MOA and along transit routes are modeled as that is where the aircraft operations would be concentrated and therefore represent the worst-case scenario for aircraft noise impacts over the Olympic Peninsula.

The reference activities for the EA-18G, the P-3C, the P-8, and the F-15 were derived from a three-year average of actual aircraft flight information derived from 2015–2017 Sierra Hotel Aviation Readiness Program (SHARP) and Data Collection and Scheduling Tool (DCAST) data. SHARP enables aircrew to capture after-flight information for training as well as combat readiness data for calculating aircrew and squadron combat readiness levels for operational missions. DCAST is a web-based range complex scheduling system developed for use across all Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet's (Fleet) training areas and ranges. DCAST provides the ability to schedule all training resources and Fleet range complex use in a standardized and efficient manner, while collecting data for the purpose of range sustainment (i.e., environmental stewardship and training area and range administration). The proposed future year activities include updates to both Navy training and testing requirements into the foreseeable future.

### **J.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE**

The SUA analyzed in this study includes the Olympic MOA and W-237A (Figure J-1).<sup>1</sup> The FAA established the Olympic MOA and W-237A in 1977 as components of the National Airspace System (NAS). The Olympic MOA begins approximately 53 nautical miles (NM) west of Seattle and extends 3 NM off the coast of Washington State. W-237A begins on the western edge of the Olympic MOA, and extends to the west offshore for approximately 50 NM.

The altitude range for the Olympic MOA airspace<sup>2</sup> begins at 6,000 ft. above mean sea level (MSL) and extends to an upper limit of up to but not including 18,000 ft. MSL. The 6,000 ft. MSL floor of the airspace is straightforward for the majority of the MOA, but in the eastern part of the MOA the terrain can rise several thousand feet above sea level, approaching the floor of the airspace. To account for this, a further restriction requires that aircraft operating over land in the Olympic MOA maintain an altitude of at least 1,200 ft. above ground level. This 1,200 ft. restriction would only affect flights over terrain located at the eastern edge of the MOA, where elevations could exceed 4,800 ft. MSL, which is less than 1 percent of the area beneath the MOA (see Figure J-2). Above the Olympic MOA, the Olympic Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA) extends the upper altitude limit of the combined airspace to 35,000 ft. MSL. The altitude range for W-237A begins at sea level and extends to 50,000 ft. MSL (Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, 2016). While W-237A is not over land, it is included in this study to address noise from activities in this area.

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<sup>1</sup> Warning Area W-237A has several other sections. However, all of these are located farther off shore, away from acoustically sensitive receptors on land, and thus were not considered in this noise analysis.

<sup>2</sup> FAA JO 7400.10B Feb 2020

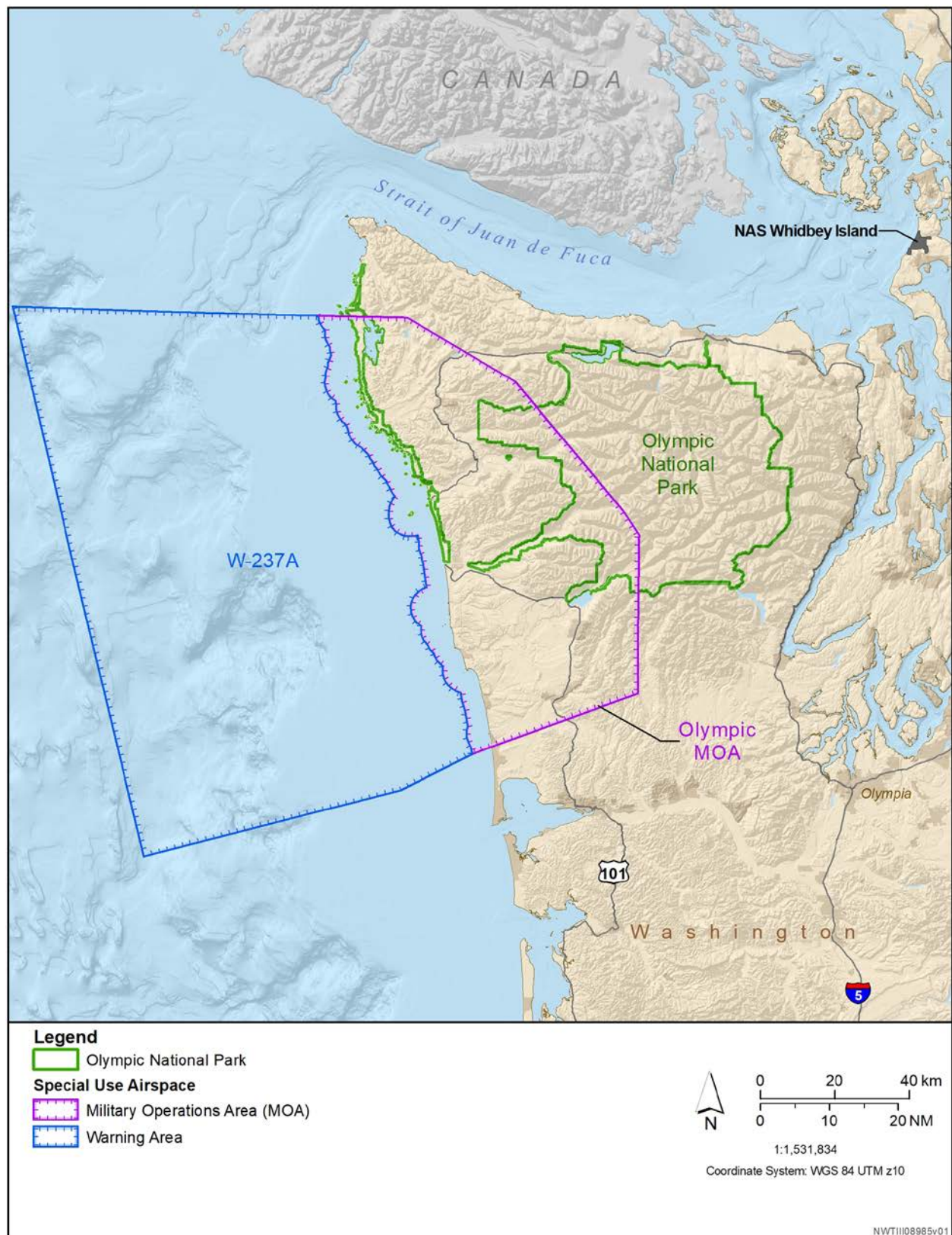


Figure J-1: Special Use Airspace Modeled in this Noise Analysis

To reduce the likelihood of exceeding the limits of these designated airspace, aircrews specifically plan their flight maneuvers to avoid inadvertently flying outside of the airspace boundaries. For modeling purposes, a 3 NM offset was applied to the Warning Area and to the north, south, and east borders of the Olympic MOA, effectively restricting the modeled aircraft from flying within 3 NM of the edges of the airspace when conducting training activities. This offset is used to represent how the aircraft actually fly within the MOA. No offset was applied to the west portion of the Olympic MOA since aircraft often enter the warning areas from the MOA.

When the Olympic MOA is not being used by the military, the airspace becomes available for the FAA to use for commercial and private aircraft.

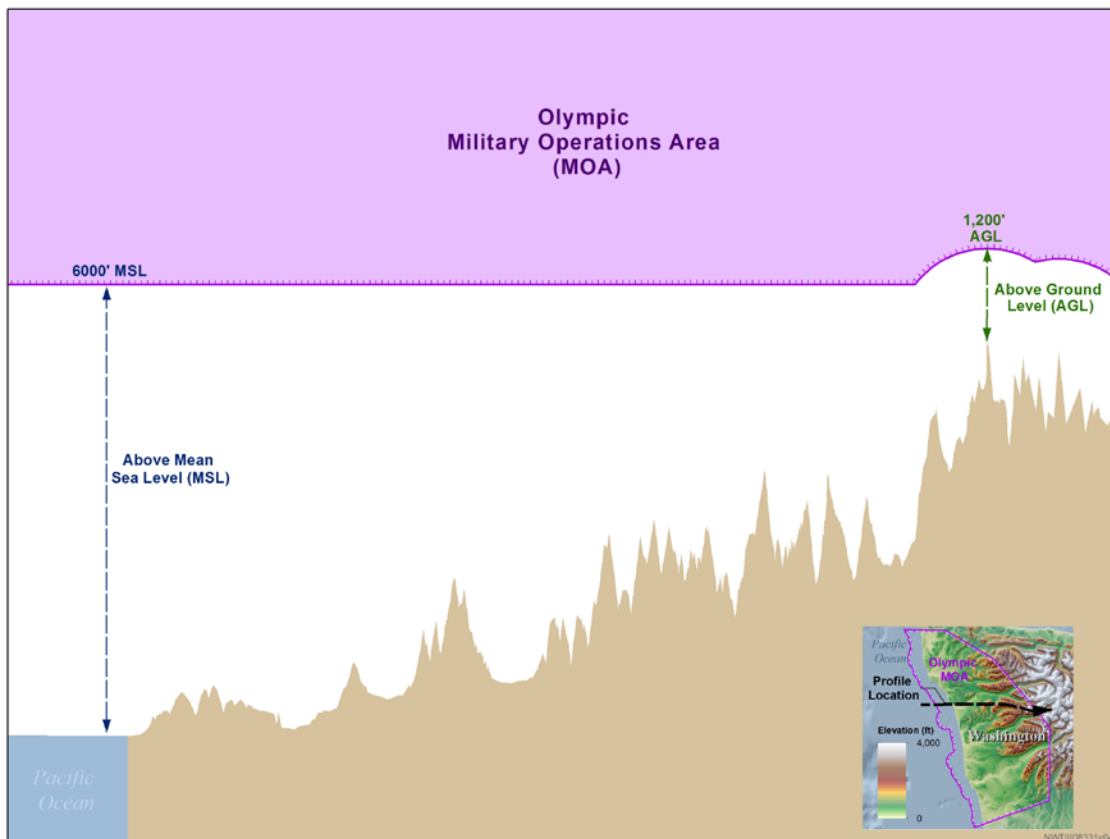


Figure J-2: Floor of the Olympic MOA Airspace

#### J.4 NOISE METRICS

Noise is one of the most prominent environmental issues associated with military training activities. The noise environment at military bases and training areas can include various types of noise sources that can either be classified as intermittent time varying noise (e.g., on-base vehicular traffic and aircraft training activities), or impulsive noise (e.g., weapons firing or detonation of explosives). Not all of these noise sources are directly associated with military training, such as civilian vehicular traffic or building heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system noise. However, military training activities may dominate the noise environment around military bases and training areas.

Analyzing aircraft noise requires an understanding of the type of aircraft activities to be analyzed, either at an airfield or in SUA. Aircraft noise generated in SUA requires the use of different noise metrics than those associated with airfield activities. As opposed to patterned or routine overflight over a specific area associated with airfields, overflights within SUA and along transit routes can be highly variable in occurrence and location, making it impractical to develop noise contour maps. When in SUA, aircrew are presented with a scenario to complete in order to accomplish training required for that flight. In addition to a number of different scenarios for each type of training event, each aircrew will respond uniquely. As a result, aircraft will maneuver within established boundaries (including a floor, or lowest altitude permissible), but are unpredictable as to where within those boundaries they will fly. Likewise, power settings and aircraft aspect relative to any given observer follow no set patterns.

Noise abatement routes to and from SUA have been established by the FAA to minimize overflight of populated areas while maximizing the efficiency and orderly flow of all air traffic (military, commercial and civil). All military aircraft (including the EA-18G) are subject to the rules and regulations of the FAA while flying in the NAS, but may deviate from established routes from time to time based on various factors that may be dictated by air traffic control. In the Puget Sound area, military use of the NAS is a small percent (about 7 percent) of the total overall air traffic in the region.

For this study, the standard noise metric, Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL), is utilized as well as supplemental metrics (e.g., maximum noise level [ $L_{max}$ ], audibility), to provide information on noise events that would occur within the Olympic MOA or while transiting to or from the Olympic MOA.

#### **J.4.1 DAY-NIGHT AVERAGE SOUND LEVEL**

DNL has been determined to be a reliable measure of long-term community annoyance from aircraft noise and has become the standard noise metric used as a federal standard for measuring noise impacts. The DNL metric is the industry standard methodology, supported by guidance from the FAA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DoD, Federal Interagency Committee on Noise (FICON), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the World Health Organization, among others, and is the most accurate and valid method for evaluating the impacts of noise under current and future conditions. As a federal standard, the DNL metric is used by many state and local governments.

In 1979, the Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise (FICUN) was established, and they published “Guidelines for Considering Noise in Land-Use Planning and Control” (FICUN, 1980). These guidelines complement federal agency criteria by providing for the consideration of noise in all land-use planning and interagency/intergovernmental processes. The FICUN established DNL as the most appropriate descriptor for all noise sources in land-use planning. In 1982, the EPA published “Guidelines for Noise Impact Analysis” to provide all types of decision-makers with analytic procedures to uniformly express and quantify noise impacts (EPA, 1982). The ANSI endorsed DNL in 1990 as the “acoustical measure to be used in assessing compatibility between various land uses and outdoor noise environment” (ANSI, 2003). In 1992, FICON reaffirmed the use of DNL as the principal aircraft noise descriptor in the document entitled “Federal Agency Review of Selected Airport Noise Analysis Issues” (FICON, 1992). For aviation noise analyses, the FAA has determined that the cumulative noise energy exposure of individuals to noise resulting from aviation activities must be established in terms of yearly DNL, the FAA’s primary noise metric (Federal Aviation Administration, 2015). In general, scientific studies and social surveys have found a high correlation between the percentages of groups of people highly annoyed and the level of average noise exposure measured in DNL (Schultz, 1974; Fidell et al., 1991; Finegold et al., 1994).

The DNL is a noise measure used for assessing cumulative sound levels. This measure accounts for the exposure of all noise events in an average 24-hour period. DNL (which is also denoted as  $L_{dn}$ ) is an average sound level, expressed in decibels (dB), which is commonly used to assess aircraft noise exposures in communities in the vicinity of airfields and under SUA (FICUN, 1980; EPA, 1982; ANSI, 2005). DNL values are related to compatible/incompatible land uses and do not directly relate to any singular sound event a person may hear. DNL includes a 10 dB adjustment for acoustical nighttime noise events. Acoustical daytime is defined as the period from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local, and acoustical nighttime is the period from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. The 10 dB penalty accounts for the generally lower background sound levels and greater community sensitivity to noise during nighttime hours.

Individual military overflight events also differ from typical airfield noise events in that noise from a low-altitude, high-air-speed flyover can have a sudden onset (i.e., exhibiting a rate of increase in sound level [onset rate] of up to 15 to 150 dB per second). To represent these differences, the conventional DNL metric is adjusted to account for the “surprise” effect of the sudden onset of aircraft noise events on humans. This adjustment is applied by adding a noise penalty of up to 11 dB above the normal Sound Exposure Level (Stusnick et al., 1993, ANSI, 2005). Onset rates between 15 to 150 dB per second require an adjustment penalty of 0 to 11 dB, while onset rates below 15 dB per second require no adjustment. The adjusted DNL is designated as the onset-rate adjusted day-night average sound level ( $DNL_r$  or  $L_{dnr}$ ).

Because DNL takes into account both the amount of noise from each aircraft operation as well as the total number of operations flying throughout the day, there are many ways in which aircraft noise can add up to a specific DNL. Small numbers of relatively loud operations can result in the same DNL as large numbers of relatively quiet operations.

To assess accurately the impacts on humans from different types of noise events, the DNL metric is used along with weighting factors that emphasize certain parts of the audio frequency spectrum. The normal human ear detects sounds in the range from 20 hertz (Hz) to 20,000 Hz, but our ears are most sensitive to sounds in the 1,000 to 4,000 Hz range. Community noise is therefore assessed using a filter that approximates the frequency response of the human ear, adjusting low and high frequencies to match the sensitivity of the ear. This “A-weighting” filter is used to assess most community noise sources. Noise defined with the “A-weighting” filter uses the decibel designation dBA.

A-weighting best replicates human hearing and is the most appropriate for the assessment of annoyance from aircraft noise. A-weighted sound levels form the basis of the DNL metric, which is the best available metric to relate aircraft noise to long-term annoyance. The FICON found that “There are no new descriptors or metrics of sufficient scientific standing to substitute for the present DNL cumulative noise exposure metric” (Federal Aviation Administration, 2015). An alternative measurement methodology using C-weighting increases the emphasis on lower frequencies when compared with A-weighting. C-weighting is most appropriate for impulsive or repetitive sounds, such as blast noise and machine gun fire, which contain significant low-frequency noise, as well as continuous noise sources such as pumps and compressors. The FAA continues to recommend and utilize DNL and A-weighting for aircraft noise studies, and the DoD methodology used in this Supplemental is consistent with all applicable federal standards.

The EA-18G Growler aircraft generates the greatest sound pressure levels at frequencies between 200 and 4,000 Hz, consistent with the sound pressure levels of many commercial jetliners, and noise impact analyses for these commercial jetliners utilize A-weighted DNL measurements.



Common complaints associated with low-frequency vibrations depend on the individual perceiving the noise, but they could include annoyance/fright, concerns about structural effects on homes, or potential health effects.

### J.4.2 MAXIMUM NOISE LEVEL

Another noise metric that can provide supplemental information about the noise environment is the  $L_{\max}$ . For SUA noise analysis, the  $L_{\max}$  metric provides the maximum noise level from the single loudest event potentially occurring within the SUA. The  $L_{\max}$  is unaltered by the number of training activities. However, an observer might not necessarily experience that event depending on where the observer was located in relation to the aircraft overflight. Because the flight activities within SUA are dispersed throughout the airspace, this means an observer would need to be directly below an aircraft as it flew at the lowest possible altitude to experience the maximum level of noise. See Table J-1 for maximum levels of common noise sources.

**Table J-1: Examples of Various Sound Levels**

| <i>dBA</i> | <i>Example</i>            | <i>Home and Yard Appliances</i> | <i>Workshop and Construction</i> |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 0          | Healthy hearing threshold | -                               | -                                |
| 10         | A pin dropping            | -                               | -                                |
| 20         | Rustling leaves           | -                               | -                                |
| 30         | Whisper                   | -                               | -                                |
| 40         | Babbling brook            | Computer                        | -                                |
| 50         | Light traffic             | Refrigerator                    | -                                |
| 60         | Conversational speech     | Air conditioner                 | -                                |
| 70         | Shower                    | Dishwasher                      | -                                |
| 75         | Toilet flushing           | Vacuum cleaner                  | -                                |
| 80         | Alarm clock               | Garbage disposal                | -                                |
| 85         | Passing diesel truck      | Snow blower                     | -                                |
| 90         | Squeeze toy               | Lawn mower                      | Arc welder                       |
| 95         | Inside subway car         | Food processor                  | Belt sander                      |
| 100        | Motorcycle (riding)       | -                               | Handheld drill                   |
| 105        | Sporting event            | -                               | Table saw                        |
| 110        | Rock band                 | -                               | Jackhammer                       |

Source: Berger et al., 2015

### J.4.3 AUDIBILITY

In the late 1980s, Congress directed the Department of Interior to investigate public concerns about aircraft noise within national parks and wilderness areas. The Department of Interior directed the National Park Service (NPS) to investigate these concerns. One of the results of the NPS's investigation was the introduction of audibility as a way of assessing the impact of transportation noise on natural quiet. The prediction of audibility estimates the ability of a human to hear a noise within the ambient soundscape. However, no uniform criteria nor threshold on percent time audible has been established to determine a potential noise impact within national parks or wilderness areas. In Section J.7 (Acoustic Monitoring Report), a 2010 National Park Service acoustic monitoring study, in which percent time audible data are provided, will be discussed. The Navy also reviewed a study of aircraft noise on the

Olympic Peninsula that was prepared by Laura Kuehne, a research scientist at the University of Washington's College of the Environment, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (Kuehne, 2019); however, the information contained in this report had limited applicability and does not apply to the FAA-recommended methodology for analyzing aircraft noise.

#### J.4.4 NOISE METRICS USED IN THIS ANALYSIS

In this analysis, noise from aircraft training activities within the Olympic MOA was assessed using noise metrics recommended by the DoD, the Federal Interagency Committee on Aviation Noise (FICAN),<sup>3</sup> ANSI, and the FAA. Aircraft flight noise was assessed using the A-weighted  $L_{dn}$  and the  $L_{dnr}$ . Table J-2 provides the noise level limits associated with land use planning (DoD, 2011; Navy, 2008). In general, most land uses are considered compatible within Noise Zone 1. For Noise Zone 2, some land uses are incompatible with the noise. Within Noise Zone 3, most land uses are incompatible.

**Table J-2: Noise Zone Definitions**

| Noise Zone | Noise Limit $L_{dn}$ (dBA) | Potential Impacts |
|------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1          | <65                        | Lesser            |
| 2          | 65 – 75                    | Moderate          |
| 3          | 75+                        | Highest           |

Notes:  $L_{dn}$  = Day-Night Average Sound Level, dBA = A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level

In addition to using the A-weighted  $L_{dn}$  and the  $L_{dnr}$ , the analysis provides  $L_{max}$  levels from the EA-18G to aid in the assessment of noise intrusions into the natural soundscape areas underneath and outside of the SUA. Because of the relatively low number of daily transits conducted to and from the Olympic MOA,  $L_{dnr}$  modeling results would be below the minimum value that MRNMap can calculate (35 dBA). Therefore, aircraft transits were also analyzed using  $L_{max}$  levels.

#### J.4.5 COMPUTERIZED NOISE EXPOSURE MODELS

Analyses of aircraft noise exposures and compatible land uses around and underneath SUA are normally accomplished using MRNMap (Ikelheimer & Downing, 2013). The United States Air Force developed this general-purpose computer model for calculating noise exposures occurring away from airbases, since aircraft noise is also an issue within MOAs and ranges, as well as along Military Training Routes (MTRs). This model expands the calculation of noise exposures away from airbases by using algorithms from both NoiseMap (Moulton, 1992; Czech & Plotkin, 1998) and ROUTEMAP (Bradley, 1996). NoiseMap is the DoD noise model to assess aircraft noise in and around airfields, and ROUTEMAP is a legacy DoD prediction model for cumulative noise underneath and near MTRs. MRNMap leverages the algorithms in these DoD noise models to predict cumulative noise levels underneath and near SUA. MRNMap uses two primary noise models to calculate the noise exposure: track and area operations. Track operations are for training activities that have a well-defined flight track, such as MTRs, aerial refueling, and strafing tracks. Area operations are for training activities that do not have well defined tracks, but occur within a defined area, such as air combat maneuvers within a MOA. The Navy used MRNMap – area operations for this noise study as it is ideally suited to analyze aircraft noise in MOAs.

For area operations, the model allows flexibility. If little is known about the airspace utilization within a MOA, then the MOA boundaries can simply be used, and the training activities are uniformly distributed

<sup>3</sup> FICAN was established in 1993 as the successor to FICON.

within the defined area. However, if more is known about how and where the aircraft fly within the MOA, subareas can be defined within the MOA to refine the modeled noise exposure.

Once the airspace is defined, the user must describe the different types of missions occurring within each airspace segment. Individual aircraft missions include the altitude distribution, airspeed, and engine power settings. These individual profiles are coupled with airspace components and annual operational rates.

The noise model MRNMap uses the airspace and operational parameters defined to calculate the desired noise metrics. The model calculates these noise metrics either for a user-defined grid or at user-defined specific points. The specific point calculation, used for this analysis in order to consider the changing elevation, generates a table that provides the noise exposure, as well as the top contributors to the noise exposure. The noise model MRNMap is the FAA-approved model for conducting a detailed noise analysis in MOAs and other SUA, such as the airspace over the Olympic Peninsula, military training routes, and other DoD airspace.

## **J.5 AIRSPACE TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES**

Flight training activities conducted within the Olympic MOA and W-237A include a range of aircraft and mission types. Specific mission types and associated aircraft for these missions are defined in the Tables J-3 through J-10. Mission definitions are broken out into the reference training missions, based on historical data, and the proposed training missions projected to occur in the foreseeable future. Additional details on the modeled activities can be found in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) and Appendix A (Navy Activities Descriptions) of the Supplemental. The numbers reflected in the following tables are based on the number of aircraft sorties, which is more useful in analyzing actual noise events, while the numbers in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS are the number of activity events; therefore, a comparison between the two sets of data is not easily made. One aircraft sortie could result in the completion of multiple training events, as a sortie is simply a single operational flight by one aircraft. Similarly, in some cases, one event could include multiple aircraft sorties. For example, Naval Air Systems Command would conduct comparatively few testing events that involve only P-8A and Triton aircraft. For the purposes of this analysis, the events would be conducted in the same manner and locations as Fleet training events.

Aircraft modeled include the primary user of the airspace units, EA-18G, along with other users: P-3C, P-8A, and F-15. The EA-18G activities were modeled with the F/A-18E/F aircraft with the F414-GE-400 engines, which is the same engine used in the EA-18G. The F-15 activities were modeled with the Pratt and Whitney F100-PW-229 engines. For the P-8A (a modified Boeing 737), the Boeing 737-700 with a CFM56-7B-24 engine was selected for the reference noise database within MRNMap. These engine selections were made to provide the loudest available variants of these aircraft for the noise modeling.

The noise model relies on performance parameters (airspeed, altitude, and power settings) provided by the aircrews, who fly these missions. Because the actual locations of any given event are unpredictable due to variables such as weather and others described above in Section J.4, the model assumes that the aircraft events, over time, would be uniformly distributed throughout the SUA within the 3 NM offset with a diminishing distribution from the offset to the SUA boundary.

## J.5.1 REFERENCE MISSIONS

Table J-3: Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the EA-18G

|                                  | EA-18G - Reference                                  |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                  | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                    | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                   | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                     | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                   | W-237A |
| Name/Identifier                  | Entry/Exit: Ingress & Egress<br>Routes <sup>3</sup> |        | Suppress Enemy Air Defenses <sup>1</sup>           |        | Electronic Warfare Close Air<br>Support <sup>1</sup> |        | Air to Air Counter Tactics <sup>2</sup>            |        |
| # Aircraft/Year                  | 4448                                                | 0      | 1194                                               | 187    | 318                                                  | 92     | 712                                                | 132    |
| % Day (0700L-2159L)              | 94%                                                 | 0%     | 99%                                                | 98%    | 99%                                                  | 99%    | 96%                                                | 100%   |
| % Night (2200L-0659L)            | 6%                                                  | 0%     | 1%                                                 | 2%     | 1%                                                   | 1%     | 4%                                                 | 0%     |
| Avg Minutes in Airspace/Aircraft | NA                                                  | NA     | 90                                                 | 90     | 90                                                   | 90     | 60                                                 | 60     |
| Avg Power Setting in % NC        | 75                                                  | NA     | 80                                                 | 80     | 82                                                   | 82     | 89                                                 | 89     |
| Avg Speed (Knots indicated)      | 250                                                 | NA     | 265                                                | 265    | 298                                                  | 298    | 342                                                | 342    |
| Altitude MSL                     | Percent of total time spent at<br>these altitudes.  |        | Percent of total time spent at<br>these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at<br>these altitudes.   |        | Percent of total time spent at<br>these altitudes. |        |
| FLR - 2,000 ft                   |                                                     |        |                                                    | 1.6%   |                                                      | 1.6%   |                                                    |        |
| 2,000 - 4,000 ft                 |                                                     |        |                                                    | 1.6%   |                                                      | 1.6%   |                                                    |        |
| 4,000 - 6,000 ft                 |                                                     |        |                                                    | 1.6%   |                                                      | 1.6%   |                                                    | 2.3%   |
| 6,000 - 8,000 ft                 |                                                     | 2.0%   | 2.0%                                               | 5.0%   | 2.0%                                                 | 5.0%   | 3.2%                                               | 7.5%   |
| 8,000 - 10,000 ft                |                                                     | 5.0%   | 5.0%                                               |        | 5.0%                                                 |        | 6.6%                                               |        |
| 10,000 - 12,000 ft               |                                                     |        | 24.0%                                              | 24.0%  | 16.0%                                                | 24.0%  | 16.0%                                              | 55.2%  |
| 12,000 - 14,000 ft               |                                                     |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 14,000 - 16,000 ft               | 100.0%                                              |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 16,000 - 18,000 ft               |                                                     |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 18,000 - 20,000 ft               |                                                     | 64.0%  | 64.0%                                              | 65.0%  | 64.0%                                                | 65.0%  | 35.0%                                              | 35.0%  |
| 20,000 - 23,000 ft               |                                                     |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 23,000 - 30,000 ft               |                                                     |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 30,000 - 40,000 ft *             |                                                     | 5.0%   | 5.0%                                               | 5.0%   | 5.0%                                                 | 5.0%   |                                                    |        |
| Total % Time                     | 100.0%                                              | 100.0% | 100.0%                                             | 100.0% | 100.0%                                               | 100.0% | 100.0%                                             | 100.0% |

\*Olympic MOA activities are all at or below 35,000 feet MSL, with over 95% of activities at or above 10,000 feet MSL.

<sup>1</sup> Suppress Enemy Air Defenses and Electronic Warfare Close Air Support are two types of Electronic Warfare activities.

<sup>2</sup> Electronic Warfare (EW) and Air to Air Counter Tactics (AACT) 3-year average of data was 68% EW and 32% AACT – this ratio of events was used for this study. Air to Air Counter Tactics is the primary type of Air Combat Maneuver (ACM) activity addressed throughout the Supplemental.

<sup>3</sup> Entry/Exit number is 2x 1 for entry 1 for exit. W-237A entry/exit are zero because the EA-18G enters the warning area from the MOA.

Notes: ATCAA = Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, Avg = Average, NC = Compressor Stage Rotations Per Minute (a measure of jet engine power setting), FLR = Floor, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NA = Not Applicable

Table J-4: Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the P-3C

|                                      | P-3C/EP-3 - Reference                           |        |                                                 |        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                      | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A |
| Name/Identifier                      | Entry/Exit                                      |        | Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance   |        |
| # Aircraft/Year Avg FY 15-17 (SHARP) | 0                                               | 155    | 0                                               | 155    |
| % Day (0700L-2159L)                  | 90%                                             | 90%    | 90%                                             | 90%    |
| % Night (2200L-0659L)                | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| Avg Minutes in Airspace/Aircraft     | NA                                              | NA     | 180                                             | 180    |
| Avg Power Setting in ESHP            | 2500                                            | 2500   | 2000                                            | 2000   |
| Avg Speed (Knots indicated)          | 260                                             | 260    | 220                                             | 220    |
| Altitude MSL                         | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        |
| FLR - 2,000 ft                       |                                                 |        |                                                 | 5%     |
| 2,000 - 4,000 ft                     |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 4,000 - 6,000 ft                     |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 6,000 - 8,000 ft                     |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 8,000 - 10,000 ft                    |                                                 |        |                                                 | 5%     |
| 10,000 - 12,000 ft                   | 100%                                            | 100%   | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| 12,000 - 14,000 ft                   |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 14,000 - 16,000 ft                   |                                                 |        |                                                 | 10%    |
| 16,000 - 18,000 ft                   |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 18,000 - 20,000 ft                   |                                                 |        | 90%                                             | 70%    |
| Total % Time                         | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% |

Notes: ATCAA = Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, SHARP = Sierra Hotel Aviation Readiness Program, Avg = Average, ESHP = Equivalent Shaft Horsepower, FLR = Floor, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NA = Not Applicable

Table J-5: Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the P-8A

|                                      | P-8A - Reference                                |        |                                                 |        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                      | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A |
| Name/Identifier                      | Entry/Exit                                      |        | Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance   |        |
| # Aircraft/Year Avg FY 15-17 (SHARP) | 0                                               | 64     | 0                                               | 32     |
| % Day (0700L-2159L)                  | 90%                                             | 90%    | 90%                                             | 90%    |
| % Night (2200L-0659L)                | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| Avg Minutes in Airspace/Aircraft     | NA                                              | NA     | 180                                             | 180    |
| Avg Power Setting in ESHP            | 6000                                            | 6000   | 5500                                            | 5500   |
| Avg Speed (Knots indicated)          | 260                                             | 260    | 240                                             | 240    |
| Altitude MSL                         | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        |
| FLR - 2,000 ft                       |                                                 |        |                                                 | 5%     |
| 2,000 - 4,000 ft                     |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 4,000 - 6,000 ft                     |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 6,000 - 8,000 ft                     |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 8,000 - 10,000 ft                    |                                                 |        |                                                 | 5%     |
| 10,000 - 12,000 ft                   | 100%                                            | 100%   | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| 12,000 - 14,000 ft                   |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 14,000 - 16,000 ft                   |                                                 |        |                                                 | 10%    |
| 16,000 - 18,000 ft                   |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 18,000 - 20,000 ft                   |                                                 |        | 90%                                             | 70%    |
| Total % Time                         | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% |

Notes: ATCAA = Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, SHARP = Sierra Hotel Aviation Readiness Program, Avg = Average, ESHP = Equivalent Shaft Horsepower, FLR = Floor, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NA = Not Applicable

Table J-6: Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the F-15

|                                  | F-15 - Reference                                |        |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                  | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A |
| Name/Identifier FY Avg FY15-17   | Entry/Exit                                      |        | Basic Fighter Maneuvers                         |        | Air Combat Maneuvers                            |        |
| # Aircraft/Year                  | 24                                              | 42     | 6                                               | 10     | 6                                               | 11     |
| % Day (0700L-2159L)              | 100%                                            | 100%   | 100%                                            | 100%   | 100%                                            | 100%   |
| % Night (2200L-0659L)            | 0%                                              | 0%     | 0%                                              | 0%     | 0%                                              | 0%     |
| Avg Minutes in Airspace/Aircraft | NA                                              | NA     | 25                                              | 25     | 30                                              | 25     |
| Avg Power Setting in % NC        | 75                                              | 75     | 88                                              | 88     | 88                                              | 88     |
| Avg Speed (Knots indicated)      | 250                                             | 250    | 375                                             | 375    | 375                                             | 375    |
| Altitude MSL                     | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        |
| FLR - 2,000 ft                   |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 2,000 - 4,000 ft                 |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 4,000 - 6,000 ft                 |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 6,000 - 8,000 ft                 |                                                 | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| 8,000 - 10,000 ft                |                                                 | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| 10,000 - 12,000 ft               |                                                 | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| 12,000 - 14,000 ft               |                                                 | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    |
| 14,000 - 16,000 ft               | 100%                                            | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    |
| 16,000 - 18,000 ft               |                                                 | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    |
| 18,000 - 20,000 ft               |                                                 | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| Total % Time                     | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% |

Notes: ATCAA = Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, Avg = Average, NC = Compressor Stage Rotations Per Minute (a measure of jet engine power setting), FLR = Floor, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NA = Not Applicable

## J.5.2 PROPOSED MISSIONS

Table J-7: Proposed Training Missions for the EA-18G

|                                  | EA-18G - Proposed                                  |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                  | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                   | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                   | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                     | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                   | W-237A |
| Name/Identifier                  | Entry/Exit:Ingress & Egress<br>Routes <sup>3</sup> |        | Suppress Enemy Air Defenses <sup>1</sup>           |        | Electronic Warfare Close Air<br>Support <sup>1</sup> |        | Air to Air Counter Tactics <sup>2</sup>            |        |
| # Aircraft/Year                  | 5048                                               | 0      | 1201                                               | 319    | 515                                                  | 137    | 808                                                | 214    |
| % Day (0700L-2159L)              | 94%                                                | 0%     | 99%                                                | 98%    | 99%                                                  | 99%    | 96%                                                | 100%   |
| % Night (2200L-0659L)            | 6%                                                 | 0%     | 1%                                                 | 2%     | 1%                                                   | 1%     | 4%                                                 | 0%     |
| Avg Minutes in Airspace/Aircraft | NA                                                 | NA     | 90                                                 | 90     | 90                                                   | 90     | 60                                                 | 60     |
| Avg Power Setting in % NC        | 75                                                 | NA     | 80                                                 | 80     | 82                                                   | 82     | 89                                                 | 89     |
| Avg Speed (Knots indicated)      | 250                                                | NA     | 265                                                | 265    | 298                                                  | 298    | 342                                                | 342    |
| Altitude MSL                     | Percent of total time spent at<br>these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at<br>these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at<br>these altitudes.   |        | Percent of total time spent at<br>these altitudes. |        |
| FLR - 2,000 ft                   |                                                    |        |                                                    | 1.6%   |                                                      | 1.6%   |                                                    |        |
| 2,000 - 4,000 ft                 |                                                    |        |                                                    | 1.6%   |                                                      | 1.6%   |                                                    |        |
| 4,000 - 6,000 ft                 |                                                    |        |                                                    | 1.6%   |                                                      | 1.6%   |                                                    | 2.3%   |
| 6,000 - 8,000 ft                 |                                                    | 2.0%   | 2.0%                                               | 5.0%   | 2.0%                                                 | 5.0%   | 3.2%                                               | 7.5%   |
| 8,000 - 10,000 ft                |                                                    | 5.0%   | 5.0%                                               |        | 5.0%                                                 |        | 6.6%                                               |        |
| 10,000 - 12,000 ft               |                                                    |        | 24.0%                                              | 24.0%  | 16.0%                                                | 24.0%  | 16.0%                                              | 55.2%  |
| 12,000 - 14,000 ft               |                                                    |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 14,000 - 16,000 ft               | 100.0%                                             |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 16,000 - 18,000 ft               |                                                    |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 18,000 - 20,000 ft               |                                                    | 64.0%  | 64.0%                                              | 65.0%  | 64.0%                                                | 65.0%  | 35.0%                                              | 35.0%  |
| 20,000 - 23,000 ft               |                                                    |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 23,000 - 30,000 ft               |                                                    |        |                                                    |        |                                                      |        |                                                    |        |
| 30,000 - 40,000 ft *             |                                                    | 5.0%   | 5.0%                                               | 5.0%   | 5.0%                                                 | 5.0%   |                                                    |        |
| Total % Time                     | 100.0%                                             | 100.0% | 100.0%                                             | 100.0% | 100.0%                                               | 100.0% | 100.0%                                             | 100.0% |

\*Olympic MOA activities are all at or below 35,000 feet MSL, with over 95% of activities at or above 10,000 feet MSL.

<sup>1</sup> Suppress Enemy Air Defenses and Electronic Warfare Close Air Support are two types of Electronic Warfare activities.

<sup>2</sup> Electronic Warfare (EW) and Air to Air Counter Tactics (AACT) 3-year average of data was 68% EW and 32% AACT – this ratio of events was used for this study. Air to Air Counter Tactics is the primary type of Air Combat Maneuver (ACM) activity addressed throughout the Supplemental.

<sup>3</sup> Entry/Exit number is 2x 1 for entry 1 for exit. W-237A entry/exit are zero because the EA-18G enters the warning area from the MOA.

Notes: ATCAA = Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, Avg = Average, NC = Compressor Stage Rotations Per Minute (a measure of jet engine power setting), FLR = Floor, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NA = Not Applicable



Table J-8: Proposed Training Missions for the P-3C

|                                  | P3/EP-3 - Proposed                              |             |                                                 |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                  | Olympic A & B<br>(including ATCAA)              | W-237 A & B | Olympic A & B<br>(including ATCAA)              | W-237 A & B |
| Name/Identifier                  | Entry/Exit                                      |             | Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance   |             |
| # Aircraft/Year                  | 4                                               | 94          | 2                                               | 47          |
| % Day (0700L-2159L)              | 90%                                             | 90%         | 90%                                             | 90%         |
| % Night (2200L-0659L)            | 10%                                             | 10%         | 10%                                             | 10%         |
| Avg Minutes in Airspace/Aircraft | NA                                              | NA          | 180                                             | 180         |
| Avg Power Setting in ESHP        | 2500                                            | 2500        | 2000                                            | 2000        |
| Avg Speed (Knots indicated)      | 260                                             | 260         | 220                                             | 220         |
| Altitude MSL                     | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |             | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |             |
| FLR - 2,000 ft                   |                                                 |             |                                                 | 5%          |
| 2,000 - 4,000 ft                 |                                                 |             |                                                 |             |
| 4,000 - 6,000 ft                 |                                                 |             |                                                 |             |
| 6,000 - 8,000 ft                 |                                                 |             |                                                 |             |
| 8,000 - 10,000 ft                |                                                 |             |                                                 | 5%          |
| 10,000 - 12,000 ft               | 100%                                            | 100%        | 10%                                             | 10%         |
| 12,000 - 14,000 ft               |                                                 |             |                                                 |             |
| 14,000 - 16,000 ft               |                                                 |             |                                                 | 10%         |
| 16,000 - 18,000 ft               |                                                 |             |                                                 |             |
| 18,000 - 20,000 ft               |                                                 |             | 90%                                             | 70%         |
| Total % Time                     | 100.0%                                          | 100.0%      | 100.0%                                          | 100.0%      |

Notes: ATCAA = Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, Avg = Average, ESHP = Equivalent Shaft Horsepower, FLR = Floor, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NA = Not Applicable

Table J-9: Proposed Training Missions for the P-8A

|                                  | P-8A - Proposed                                    |             |                                                    |             |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                  | Olympic A & B<br>(including ATCAA)                 | W-237 A & B | Olympic A & B<br>(including ATCAA)                 | W-237 A & B |
| Name/Identifier                  | Entry/Exit                                         |             | Intelligence, Surveillance and<br>Reconnaissance   |             |
| # Aircraft/Year                  | 4                                                  | 778         | 2                                                  | 389         |
| % Day (0700L-2159L)              | 90%                                                | 90%         | 90%                                                | 90%         |
| % Night (2200L-0659L)            | 10%                                                | 10%         | 10%                                                | 10%         |
| Avg Minutes in Airspace/Aircraft | NA                                                 | NA          | 180                                                | 180         |
| Avg Power Setting in ESHP        | 6000                                               | 6000        | 5500                                               | 5500        |
| Avg Speed (Knots indicated)      | 260                                                | 260         | 240                                                | 240         |
| Altitude MSL                     | Percent of total time spent at these<br>altitudes. |             | Percent of total time spent at these<br>altitudes. |             |
| FLR - 2,000 ft                   |                                                    |             |                                                    | 5%          |
| 2,000 - 4,000 ft                 |                                                    |             |                                                    |             |
| 4,000 - 6,000 ft                 |                                                    |             |                                                    |             |
| 6,000 - 8,000 ft                 |                                                    |             |                                                    |             |
| 8,000 - 10,000 ft                |                                                    |             |                                                    | 5%          |
| 10,000 - 12,000 ft               | 100%                                               | 100%        | 10%                                                | 10%         |
| 12,000 - 14,000 ft               |                                                    |             |                                                    |             |
| 14,000 - 16,000 ft               |                                                    |             |                                                    | 10%         |
| 16,000 - 18,000 ft               |                                                    |             |                                                    |             |
| 18,000 - 20,000 ft               |                                                    |             | 90%                                                | 70%         |
| Total % Time                     | 100.0%                                             | 100.0%      | 100.0%                                             | 100.0%      |

Notes: ATCAA = Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, Avg = Average, ESHP = Equivalent Shaft Horsepower, FLR = Floor, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NA = Not Applicable

Table J-10: Proposed Training Missions for the F-15

|                                  | F-15 - Proposed                                 |        |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                  | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A | Olympic MOA<br>(including ATCAA)                | W-237A |
| Name/Identifier                  | Entry/Exit                                      |        | Air Combat Maneuvers                            |        | Basic Fighter Maneuvers                         |        |
| # Aircraft/Year                  | 24                                              | 48     | 6                                               | 12     | 6                                               | 12     |
| % Day (0700L-2159L)              | 100%                                            | 100%   | 100%                                            | 100%   | 100%                                            | 100%   |
| % Night (2200L-0659L)            | 0%                                              | 0%     | 0%                                              | 0%     | 0%                                              | 0%     |
| Avg Minutes in Airspace/Aircraft | 10                                              | 10     | 30                                              | 25     | 25                                              | 25     |
| Avg Power Setting in % NC        | 75                                              | 75     | 88                                              | 88     | 88                                              | 88     |
| Avg Speed (Knots indicated)      | 250                                             | 250    | 375                                             | 375    | 375                                             | 375    |
| Altitude MSL                     | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        | Percent of total time spent at these altitudes. |        |
| FLR - 2,000 ft                   |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 2,000 - 4,000 ft                 |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 4,000 - 6,000 ft                 |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |                                                 |        |
| 6,000 - 8,000 ft                 |                                                 | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| 8,000 - 10,000 ft                |                                                 | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| 10,000 - 12,000 ft               |                                                 | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| 12,000 - 14,000 ft               |                                                 | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    |
| 14,000 - 16,000 ft               | 100%                                            | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    |
| 16,000 - 18,000 ft               |                                                 | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    | 20%                                             | 20%    |
| 18,000 - 20,000 ft               |                                                 | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    | 10%                                             | 10%    |
| Total % Time                     | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% | 100.0%                                          | 100.0% |

Notes: ATCAA = Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace, Avg = Average, NC = Compressor Stage Rotations Per Minute (a measure of jet engine power setting), FLR = Floor, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NA = Not Applicable

## **J.6 PROJECTED AIRCRAFT NOISE EXPOSURE**

This section describes the results of the noise modeling that was completed for flights conducted in the Olympic MOA and W-237A (J.6.1), and for aircraft transits to and from these areas (J.6.2).

### **J.6.1 OLYMPIC MOA AND W-237A**

The operational parameters described in Section J.5 (Airspace Training and Testing Activities) were used as inputs to MRNMap to calculate the noise exposures around the Olympic Peninsula from aircraft operations conducted within the Olympic MOA and W-237A.

#### **J.6.1.1 Terrain**

The area beneath the Olympic MOA includes mountainous terrain. The Olympic MOA has a 3 NM boundary offset, which was applied to the north, south, and east boundaries. The offset was not applied to the west boundary as aircraft often cross the boundary when traversing between the MOA and warning area. The elevation distributions were calculated in both the area inside of the 3 NM boundary offset (where most of the operations will take place), and the area between the MOA boundary and the 3 NM boundary offset (fewer operations occur in this area).

Area inside of the 3 NM boundary offset:

- 14.47 percent of the MOA's area lies above terrain with an elevation range between 0 and 5 ft. (MSL),
- 46.87 percent between 5 and 500 ft. MSL,
- 18.53 percent between 500 and 1,000 ft. MSL,
- 7.87 percent between 1,000 and 1,500 ft. MSL,
- 5.32 percent between 1,500 and 2,000 ft. MSL,
- 3.86 percent between 2,000 and 2,500 ft. MSL,
- 2.13 percent between 2,500 and 3,000 ft. MSL,
- 0.78 percent between 3,000 and 3,500 ft. MSL,
- 0.15 percent between 3,500 and 4,000 ft. MSL,
- 0.02 percent between 4,000 and 4,500 ft. MSL,
- 0.00 percent between 4,500 and 4,800 ft. MSL, and
- 0.00 percent between 4,800 and 5,000 ft. MSL.

Area between the MOA boundary and the 3 NM boundary offset:

- 5.75 percent of the MOA's area lies above terrain with an elevation range between 0 and 5 ft. (MSL),
- 29.17 percent between 5 and 500 ft. MSL,
- 20.98 percent between 500 and 1,000 ft. MSL,
- 12.30 percent between 1,000 and 1,500 ft. MSL,
- 8.42 percent between 1,500 and 2,000 ft. MSL,
- 7.86 percent between 2,000 and 2,500 ft. MSL,
- 6.81 percent between 2,500 and 3,000 ft. MSL,
- 4.62 percent between 3,000 and 3,500 ft. MSL,
- 2.88 percent between 3,500 and 4,000 ft. MSL,
- 1.01 percent between 4,000 and 4,500 ft. MSL,
- 0.16 percent between 4,500 and 4,800 ft. MSL, and
- 0.04 percent between 4,800 and 5,000 ft. MSL.

More than 82 percent of the Olympic MOA area is inside of the 3 NM boundary offset, and the other 18 percent of the area is between the MOA boundary and the 3 NM boundary offset. The elevation distributions are shown graphically in Figure J-3.

To further refine the analysis (since the highest elevations are closer to the MOA boundary than the 3 NM offset), the 3 NM offset area (the area between the 3 NM offset and the MOA boundary) was split in half (at the 1.5 NM offset of the MOA boundary) and the probability of aircraft within each portion of the 3 NM offset and the area inside of the 3 NM offset was calculated.

### J.6.1.2 Day-Night Average Sound Level Results

The current version of MRNMap, which uses the best available science to calculate noise within SUA, does not have the capability to model complex terrain. Therefore, noise maps of the predicted sound levels cannot be produced. However, the model can accurately estimate the noise exposure at different elevations by varying the modeled ground elevation. For the Olympic MOA, noise was modeled with different reference ground elevations from 0 ft. MSL to 4,500 ft. MSL to represent the expected noise exposures for the lowest and the highest ground elevations within the MOA. The results are presented in Table J-11. As described above in Section J.4 (Noise Metrics), the results presented from MRNMap consider an average 24-hour period with a 10 dB penalty added for activities occurring at night ( $L_{dn}$ ) and an additional 11 dB penalty added to adjust for “surprise” effects of the sudden onset of aircraft noise ( $L_{dnr}$ ).

**Table J-11: Cumulative Noise Metrics Values for Baseline and Proposed Aircraft Activities**

| Terrain Height<br>(feet above MSL) | Baseline $L_{dnr}$<br>(dBA) | Proposed $L_{dnr}$<br>(dBA) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0–5                                | <35                         | <35                         |
| 5–500                              | <35                         | <35                         |
| 500–1,000                          | <35                         | <35                         |
| 1,000–1,500                        | <35                         | <35                         |
| 1,500–2,000                        | <35                         | <35                         |
| 2,000–2,500                        | <35                         | 35.6                        |
| 2,500–3,000                        | 35.5                        | 36.0                        |
| 3,000–3,500                        | 36.1                        | 36.7                        |
| 3,500–4,000                        | 35.7                        | 36.2                        |
| 4,000–4,500                        | 35.4                        | 36.0                        |

MSL = Mean Sea Level,  $L_{dn}$  = Day-Night Average Sound Level,  
dBA = A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level

For the cumulative noise metrics ( $L_{dnr}$ ), the noise modeling results show that the area underneath the Olympic MOA would experience a cumulative noise exposure of less than 37 dBA for both the reference (current) activities and the proposed activities. The slightly higher noise levels for the proposed activities are a reflection of the 13.5 percent projected increase in sorties over the current level of activities (an increase from approximately 2,300 to 2,600). For the lower ground elevations, the computed noise levels are correspondingly lower, as the distance would increase between the airborne source and the receptor on

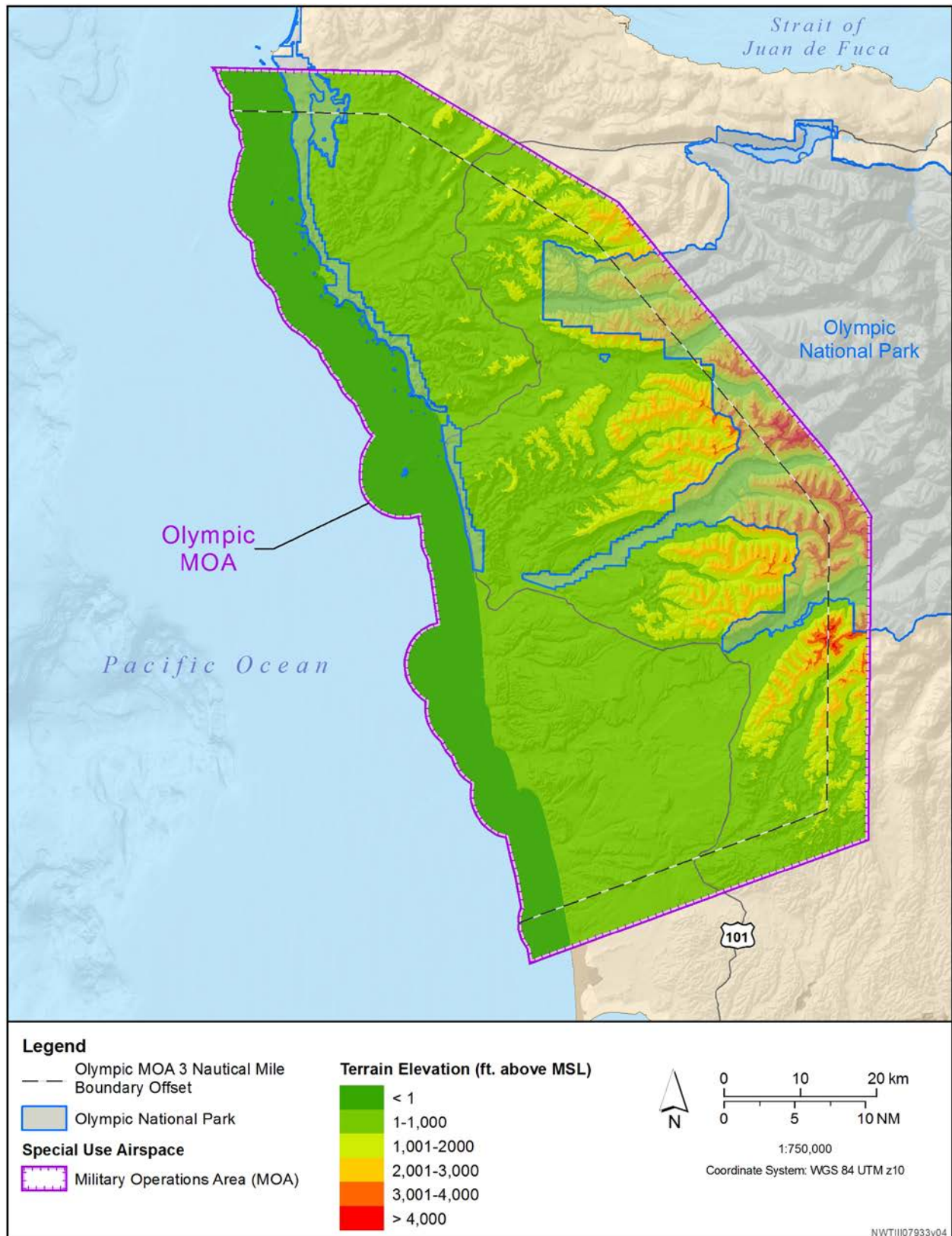


Figure J-3: Elevation Distributions Within the Olympic MOA



the ground (see Figure J-2 and Table J-11). For comparison, 35 dBA would be considered the natural ambient noise level of a wilderness area, and 39 dBA the level of a rural residential area. In a 2010 monitoring study conducted at five locations beneath or near the Olympic MOA, natural daytime ambient acoustic baselines were measured at between 23.1 dBA and 35.6 dBA (NPS, 2016). The peak cumulative noise exposures shown in Table J-11 are predicted to occur at 3,000–3,500 ft. terrain height, and not at the highest terrain elevations above 3,500 ft. This reduced cumulative noise exposure is because those higher elevations occur near the boundaries of the MOA, where aircraft seldom fly and noise events are less likely to occur. Similarly, areas beyond the boundaries of the MOA would experience lower cumulative noise exposure from flights conducted within the MOA.

As described above in Section J.4.1 (Day-Night Average Sound Level), there are many ways in which aircraft noise can add up to a specific DNL. Small numbers of relatively loud operations can result in the same DNL as large numbers of relatively quiet operations. Any one location beneath the MOA could reach a 35 dBA level from several high-noise events, while another location would experience the same average with no high-noise events, but a number of barely audible jet flyovers.

The analysis also considered cumulative noise at locations where air traffic is most common and predictable, beneath specific points that aircraft use to enter or exit the MOA (see Section J.6.2, Transit to/from the Olympic MOA, for a description of aircraft transit procedures and entry/exit points). Directly under the entry and exit routes to the MOA and Warning Area, the highest level of noise exposure was computed to be 36 dBA for both reference activities and proposed activities. These  $L_{dnr}$  and  $L_{dn}$  noise levels are well below 65 dBA, meaning that the entire area beneath the Olympic MOA falls within Noise Zone 1.

One of the reasons for these low DNL levels is that the EA-18G spends, on average, more than 95 percent of flight time at or above 10,000 ft. MSL while in the Olympic MOA. In addition, the P-8A stays at or above 10,000 ft. MSL 100 percent of the flight time. This higher altitude translates into lower cumulative noise levels on the ground. The area beneath W-237A is computed to have cumulative noise levels below 35 dBA.

These calculated noise exposures are based on the average annual operational tempo, as defined in Section J.5 (Airspace Training and Testing Activities). If the training tempo for an active month were twice the annual average, the expected noise exposure would increase by 3 dB. In this situation, the higher elevations within the Olympic MOA would be exposed to an  $L_{dn}$  (and  $L_{dnr}$ ) of 40 dBA for the proposed activities, which is still within Noise Zone 1 limits.

While these noise zones are applicable to most situations, special consideration needs to be given to the evaluation of significance of noise impacts on noise-sensitive areas such as national parks and historic sites that could include traditional cultural resources (Federal Aviation Administration, 2015). With these noise-sensitive areas in mind, it is notable that the noise exposure for more than 91 percent of the area beneath the Olympic MOA would be less than 35 dBA, which is considered the natural ambient noise level of a wilderness area. Also, an additional analysis was conducted in which maximum noise levels are considered.

### **J.6.1.3 Maximum Noise Level**

Cumulative noise metrics, such as DNL, are well suited for general land use planning, but fall short of providing an understanding of the experience from individual events. In contrast, the  $L_{max}$  provides a simple metric to describe single noise events from flights conducted within the Olympic MOA that people on the Olympic Peninsula may experience. For the modeled missions defined in Section J.5.1

(Reference Missions), the loudest event in terms of  $L_{max}$  occurs during the EA-18G Air-to-Air Counter Tactics (see Table J-3 and Table J-7). This situation only occurs when the aircraft is at a relatively high engine power (89 percent Compressor Stage Rotations Per Minute [NC]), flying at the lowest altitudes (6,000 ft. to 8,000 ft. MSL), and flying over the highest elevations. Aircraft performing these training activities only spend 3.2 percent of their flight time at this lowest altitude band across the entire airspace (Table J-3 and Table J-7). Combining this operational distribution with the terrain altitude distributions, the noise analysis provides an estimate of the time that areas beneath the Olympic MOA will experience noise at a given maximum level. The results for the EA-18G, P-3/P-8, and F-15 are shown in Tables J-12, J-13, and J-14, respectively. The levels experienced outside the boundaries of the Olympic MOA from flights conducted within the MOA would be lower.

**Table J-12: Estimated  $L_{max}$  Duration for EA-18G Training Operations Within the Olympic MOA**

| Terrain Elevation (MSL) | Probability Distribution within the MOA | $L_{max}$ (dBA) | Time at this $L_{max}$ (min) per EA-18G SEAD and EWCAS Mission Sortie <sup>(1)</sup> | Time at this $L_{max}$ (min) per EA-18G AACT Mission Sortie <sup>(2)</sup> | Time at this $L_{max}$ (min) per Year for all Combined Missions |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                         |                                         |                 |                                                                                      |                                                                            | Baseline                                                        | Proposed Action |
| 0–5                     | 13.67%                                  | 81.5            | 0.246                                                                                | 0.262                                                                      | 558                                                             | 634             |
| 5–500                   | 45.15%                                  | 82.9            | 0.813                                                                                | 0.867                                                                      | 1847                                                            | 2096            |
| 500–1,000               | 18.77%                                  | 84.4            | 0.338                                                                                | 0.360                                                                      | 767                                                             | 871             |
| 1,000–1,500             | 8.23%                                   | 86.0            | 0.148                                                                                | 0.158                                                                      | 336                                                             | 382             |
| 1,500–2,000             | 5.66%                                   | 87.8            | 0.102                                                                                | 0.109                                                                      | 232                                                             | 263             |
| 2,000–2,500             | 4.28%                                   | 89.7            | 0.077                                                                                | 0.082                                                                      | 175                                                             | 198             |
| 2,500–3,000             | 2.60%                                   | 91.8            | 0.047                                                                                | 0.050                                                                      | 107                                                             | 121             |
| 3,000–3,500             | 1.15%                                   | 94.2            | 0.021                                                                                | 0.022                                                                      | 47                                                              | 54              |
| 3,500–4,000             | 0.40%                                   | 97.1            | 0.007                                                                                | 0.008                                                                      | 16                                                              | 18              |
| 4,000–4,500             | 0.09%                                   | 100.6           | 0.002                                                                                | 0.002                                                                      | 4                                                               | 5               |

(1) For SEAD and EWCAS missions, 2% of the mission flight time is spent at the lowest altitude that results in this  $L_{max}$  (6,000–8,000 ft. MSL)

(2) For AACT missions, 3.2% of the mission time is spent at the lowest altitude that results in this  $L_{max}$  (6,000–8,000 ft. MSL)

Notes: MOA = Military Operations Area, MSL = Mean Sea Level, dBA = A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level,  $L_{max}$  = Maximum Received Noise Level, SEAD = Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses, EWCAS = Electronic Warfare Close Air Support, AACT = Air to Air Counter Tactics, min = minutes, ISR = Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance



**Table J-13: Estimated  $L_{max}$  Duration for P-3 and P-8 Training Operations Within the Olympic MOA**

| Terrain Elevation (feet above MSL) | Probability Distribution within the MOA | P-3 $L_{max}$ (dBA) | P-8 $L_{max}$ (dBA) | Time at this $L_{max}$ (min) per ISR Mission Sortie <sup>(1)</sup> | Time at this $L_{max}$ (min) per Year for all Combined Missions |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                    |                                         |                     |                     |                                                                    | Baseline                                                        | Proposed Action |
| 0–5                                | 13.67%                                  | 51.6                | 51.2                | 2.461                                                              | 0                                                               | 10              |
| 5–500                              | 45.15%                                  | 53.0                | 52.5                | 8.127                                                              | 0                                                               | 33              |
| 500–1,000                          | 18.77%                                  | 53.7                | 53.3                | 3.379                                                              | 0                                                               | 14              |
| 1,000–1,500                        | 8.23%                                   | 54.3                | 53.9                | 1.481                                                              | 0                                                               | 6               |
| 1,500–2,000                        | 5.66%                                   | 55.4                | 55.0                | 1.019                                                              | 0                                                               | 4               |
| 2,000–2,500                        | 4.28%                                   | 56.4                | 56.0                | 0.770                                                              | 0                                                               | 3               |
| 2,500–3,000                        | 2.60%                                   | 57.3                | 56.9                | 0.468                                                              | 0                                                               | 2               |
| 3,000–3,500                        | 1.15%                                   | 58.2                | 57.7                | 0.207                                                              | 0                                                               | 1               |
| 3,500–4,000                        | 0.40%                                   | 59.2                | 58.7                | 0.072                                                              | 0                                                               | <1              |
| 4,000–4,500                        | 0.09%                                   | 59.8                | 59.3                | 0.016                                                              | 0                                                               | <1              |

(1) For ISR missions, 10% of the mission flight time is spent at the lowest altitude that results in this  $L_{max}$  (10,000–12,000 ft. MSL)

Notes: MOA = Military Operations Area, MSL = Mean Sea Level, dBA = A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level,  $L_{max}$  = Maximum Received Noise Level, min = minutes, ISR = Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance

**Table J-14: Estimated  $L_{max}$  Duration for F-15 Training Operations Within the Olympic MOA**

| Terrain Elevation (feet above MSL) | Probability Distribution within the MOA | $L_{max}$ (dBA) | Time at this $L_{max}$ (min) per F-15 ACM Mission Sortie <sup>(1)</sup> | Time at this $L_{max}$ (min) per F-15 BFM Mission Sortie <sup>(1)</sup> | Time at this $L_{max}$ (min) per Year for all Combined Missions |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                    |                                         |                 |                                                                         |                                                                         | Baseline                                                        | Proposed Action |
| 0–5                                | 13.67%                                  | 80.8            | 0.410                                                                   | 0.342                                                                   | 5                                                               | 5               |
| 5–500                              | 45.15%                                  | 82.3            | 1.355                                                                   | 1.129                                                                   | 15                                                              | 15              |
| 500–1,000                          | 18.77%                                  | 83.6            | 0.563                                                                   | 0.469                                                                   | 6                                                               | 6               |
| 1,000–1,500                        | 8.23%                                   | 85.0            | 0.247                                                                   | 0.206                                                                   | 3                                                               | 3               |
| 1,500–2,000                        | 5.66%                                   | 86.6            | 0.170                                                                   | 0.142                                                                   | 2                                                               | 2               |
| 2,000–2,500                        | 4.28%                                   | 88.3            | 0.128                                                                   | 0.107                                                                   | 1                                                               | 1               |
| 2,500–3,000                        | 2.60%                                   | 90.2            | 0.078                                                                   | 0.065                                                                   | 1                                                               | 1               |
| 3,000–3,500                        | 1.15%                                   | 92.4            | 0.035                                                                   | 0.029                                                                   | <1                                                              | <1              |
| 3,500–4,000                        | 0.40%                                   | 95.0            | 0.012                                                                   | 0.010                                                                   | <1                                                              | <1              |
| 4,000–4,500                        | 0.09%                                   | 98.1            | 0.003                                                                   | 0.002                                                                   | <1                                                              | <1              |

(1) For ACM and BFM missions, 10% of the mission flight time is spent at the lowest altitude that results in this  $L_{max}$  (6,000–8,000 ft. MSL)

Notes: MOA = Military Operations Area, MSL = Mean Sea Level, dBA = A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level,  $L_{max}$  = Maximum Received Noise Level, min = minutes, ISR = Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance, ACM = Air Combat Maneuver, BFM = Basic Fighter Maneuver

The maximum noise levels ( $L_{\max}$ ) perceived on the ground are dependent on the elevation of the terrain below the aircraft. Because the terrain elevation bands of 4,500–4,800 ft. MSL and 4,800–5,000 ft. MSL occur in the outermost area between the 1.5 NM offset and the MOA boundary, the probability of aircraft flying over these altitudes approaches 0 (less than 0.001 percent). Thus, the time each aircraft spends over these terrain heights is 0.

Beneath W-237A, the  $L_{\max}$  is 88.6 dBA. This is a lower  $L_{\max}$  than the  $L_{\max}$  beneath the MOA because the warning areas are completely over the ocean (0 ft. MSL elevation) and the distance from the surface of the water to the aircraft flying above is greater than the distance from the higher elevations in the MOA to the aircraft. The  $L_{\max}$  is the same for the Proposed Action as the Baseline since the individual mission profiles do not change.

Table J-12 provides the duration that the specified EA-18G  $L_{\max}$  occurs within the MOA for an average sortie above the specified terrain height. For areas with ground elevations between 4,000 ft. MSL and 4,500 ft. MSL, for example, the  $L_{\max}$  values of 100.6 dBA are estimated to occur for 0.12 seconds on average for each EA-18G mission type. Using this average time per sortie provides a cumulative time of five minutes over the course of an entire year for the proposed activities. To clarify this table, it does not suggest that the entire area beneath the MOA will experience noise at these levels for each sortie. Rather, somewhere within the MOA the noise could reach these levels as aircraft fly directly overhead, and these aircraft will not fly over these higher altitude areas for every mission. The total time is the accumulation of all events for the entire area over the course of a year. Thus, the likelihood of someone experiencing these maximum sound levels is low. Additionally, the  $L_{\max}$  occurs when the aircraft is flying in the lowest altitude band distribution for that mission. At some locations beneath the MOA,  $L_{\max}$  above 81.5 would occur, for a total duration of 4,642 minutes (approximately 77 hours or less than 1 percent of the time) throughout the year. 81.5 dBA equates roughly to a truck driving by at 50 ft. While the time at  $L_{\max}$  would be brief, the noise would build up for a period of time, reach  $L_{\max}$ , then decrease for a period of time.

As an example, suppose a hiker is beneath the Olympic MOA at a terrain elevation of 300 ft. This is a likely situation, as 45.15 percent of the Olympic MOA is over terrain between 0 and 500 ft. (Table J-12). If an EA-18G Growler aircraft flew directly overhead at full power, at the lowest permissible altitude (the floor of the MOA airspace, 6,000 ft. MSL), the hiker would experience an 82.9 dBA exposure to the jet noise (referred to as  $L_{\max}$  in Table J-12). That is roughly the sound level the hiker might experience 5 meters from a busy roadway. However, the sound of the jet would be at this level for only an instant, decreasing rapidly as the jet flew away from the hiker, just as the sound of a truck would be at its peak noise level only for an instant, then decrease as it drove away. Tables J-13 and J-14 provide similar information for the P-3/P-8 and F-15, respectively, but Table J-12 was chosen as it represents the loudest aircraft of the three.

As the hiker climbs in elevation, the loudest possible noise exposure from an EA-18G would increase as the hiker is moving up in elevation, closer to the floor of the MOA airspace. If the hiker was at 4,500 ft. terrain height, the noise level could potentially be as loud as 100.6 dBA. The likelihood of louder noise exposures grows increasingly unlikely for four reasons:

1. Most of the terrain beneath the Olympic MOA (more than 77 percent) is 1,000 ft. or lower, thereby creating a buffer of at least 5,000 ft. between the hiker and the jet (when the jet is flying at its lowest permissible altitude). Only 0.09 percent of the area beneath the Olympic

MOA is above 4,000 ft. elevation (Table J-12), where the 100.6 dBA exposure is possible and, for more than 77 percent of the area, the maximum noise level would be 84.4 dBA (Table J-12).

2. The highest terrain beneath the Olympic MOA is found at the eastern most border of the MOA, where aircraft presence is unlikely due to the 3 NM offset used by aircrew to avoid accidentally spilling out of the airspace.
3. The highest terrain areas on the Olympic peninsula are extremely remote, where few people are likely to be present (Figure J-3).
4. As shown in Table J-12, the 100.6 dBA noise level would occur somewhere beneath the MOA for only five minutes in any year under the proposed level of activities.

#### J.6.1.4 Audibility

An audibility metric is also calculated to estimate the potential intrusion on the natural quiet of the area. Calculating audibility is a complex process that requires detailed information about where the aircraft fly and under what conditions, as well as details about the existing ambient sound environment. Audibility estimates can, however, be made using Noise Model Simulation (NMSim) by applying simplifying assumptions. For this analysis, the “Suppress Enemy Air Defenses” mission for the EA-18G was used as the operational state, along with the simplifying assumptions of the aircraft flying straight and level over flat ground. The calculations were repeated for several different aircraft altitudes. With these assumed conditions, the National Park Service’s NMSim model was used to predict the distance at which the aircraft are just audible.

For this analysis, the EA-18G was assumed to fly at 298 knots straight and level at several different altitudes from 2,000 ft. MSL to 40,000 ft. MSL and assumed to operate at 82 percent NC. For background noise levels, a single ambient sound environment provided with NMSim was selected. Noise contours were then generated, and the distances to 0 percent audibility were calculated. These results are provided in Table J-15. Because of the complex terrain in and around the Olympic MOA, noise contour figures could not be produced. In general, this simple audibility analysis shows that the maximum distance of audibility of the EA-18G is approximately 16 NM.

**Table J-15: Estimates of the Lateral Distance of Audibility for the EA-18G**

| <i>Aircraft Height</i> | <i>Distance to edge of audibility (NM)</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 2,000 ft. AGL          | 11.5                                       |
| 5,000 ft. AGL          | 14.2                                       |
| 10,000 ft. AGL         | 15.5                                       |
| 15,000 ft. AGL         | 15.6                                       |
| 20,000 ft. AGL         | 15.6                                       |
| 30,000 ft. AGL         | 14.1                                       |
| 40,000 ft. AGL         | 12.8                                       |

Note: AGL = Above Ground Level

This audibility analysis is a rough estimate of the distance to audibility and does not include any of the details of the local terrain, local ambient noise levels, or weather conditions. This analysis also does not provide any quantification of the durations that the aircraft would be audible. Without more detailed tracking information and data on the operating state of the aircraft, such information is difficult to calculate accurately. Past research has shown that, even at high altitudes, aircraft will tend to be audible over long distances. Research on high-altitude commercial jet noise at the Grand Canyon has suggested that these aircraft are audible approximately 34 percent of the time (Ross et al., 2004). In contrast, if all

of the proposed EA-18G activities were audible for all of their time in the Olympic MOA, they would be audible for approximately 26 percent of the time over the course of a year.

Due to the relatively long range of audibility of the EA-18G, and the potential for aircraft to maneuver (as opposed to flying in a straight line), it is likely that an aircraft could be audible for a minute or more in a single event.

## **J.6.2 TRANSIT TO/FROM THE OLYMPIC MOA**

The operational parameters described in Section J.5 (Airspace Training and Testing Activities) were used as inputs to MRNMap to calculate the noise exposures around the Olympic Peninsula from EA-18G Growler aircraft transiting to and from the Olympic MOA and W-237A.

Aircraft departing Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island en route to the Olympic MOA or W-237A typically fly to the navigation point MCCUL then on to the point designated NUW233065 (Figure J-4 and Table J-16). As shown on Table J-16, EA-18G aircraft typically fly this segment at 15,000 ft. MSL. Once within the Olympic MOA, the aircraft are permitted to maneuver as required by their training requirements, and that noise analysis is captured in Section J.6.1 (Olympic MOA and W-237A). As described above in Section J.4 (Noise Metrics), aircraft do not always remain on their routes. However, a study of FAA historical radar tracks indicates that most EA-18G aircraft transiting to the Olympic MOA do remain on the established route and altitude.

When aircraft have completed their activities in the MOA and contact the FAA for the return to NAS Whidbey Island, the FAA controller will typically provide them clearance from their current location within the MOA direct to the navigation fix YETII (Figure J-4 and Table J-16). A study of radar tracks shows that aircraft fly from any point (typically near the central area of the Olympic MOA) direct to YETII. Aircraft are to intercept YETII at or above 10,000 ft. MSL. Because this is lower than the altitude of the aircraft when they depart the Olympic MOA (approximately 14,000 ft. MSL), the aircraft are descending along this segment of their route, as supported by historical radar tracks.

### **J.6.2.1 Terrain**

The area beneath the transit routes includes terrain that varies from sea level (e.g., Strait of Juan de Fuca) to mountainous (e.g., Mount Olympus, Hurricane Ridge). Several notable locations on the Olympic Peninsula below or near aircraft transits are included below along with their elevation:

- Mount Olympus – 9,570 ft.
- Hurricane Ridge – 5,242 ft.
- Glacier Meadows Campground – 4,180 ft.
- Sol Duc Falls – 2,047 ft.
- Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center – 583 ft.
- Lake Crescent – 580 ft.
- Olympic National Park Visitor Center (Port Angeles) – 350 ft.

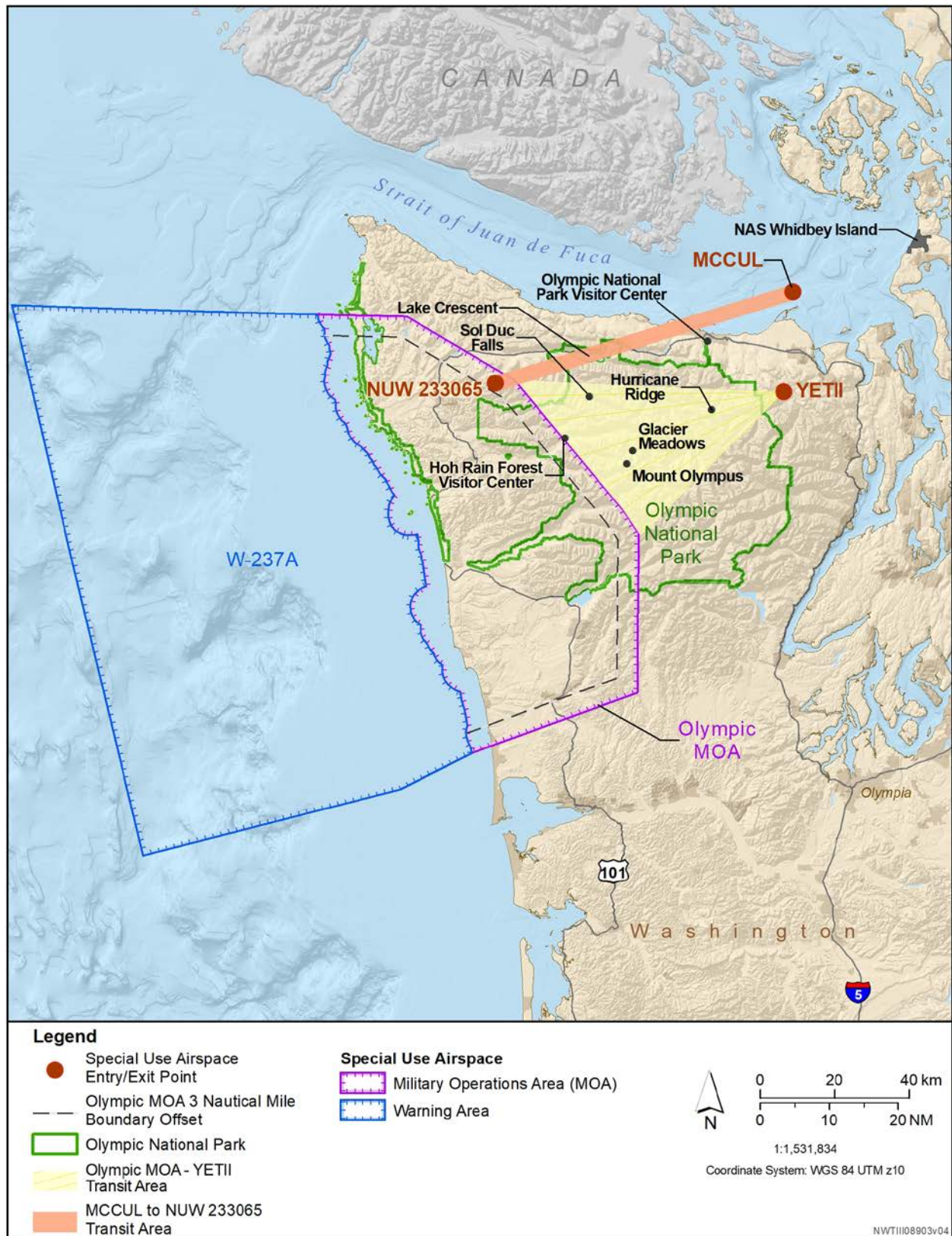


Figure J-4: EA-18G Growler Entry and Exit Routes to/from Olympic MOA and W-237A

**Table J-16: Entry and Exit Routes to/from Olympic MOA and W-237A**

| <i><b>Aircraft</b></i> | <i><b>Entry/Exit to Area</b></i>            | <i><b>Point Number</b></i> | <i><b>Fix</b></i> | <i><b>Altitude (feet above MSL)</b></i> | <i><b>Airspeed (knots)</b></i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| EA-18G                 | Navigation Point to Olympic MOA             | 1                          | MCCUL             | 15,000                                  | 250                            |
|                        | Entry to Olympic MOA                        | 2                          | NUW 233065        | 15,000                                  | 250                            |
|                        | Exit from Olympic MOA                       | 1                          | HQM 360040        | 14,000                                  | 250                            |
|                        | Navigation Point to NASWI                   | 2                          | YETII             | At or above 10,000                      | 250                            |
| F-15                   | Departure Point to Olympic MOA              | 1                          | KPDX              | At or above 10,000                      | 250                            |
|                        | Entry to Olympic MOA                        | 2                          | HQM001035         | 14,000–16,000                           | 250                            |
|                        | Exit from Olympic MOA                       | 1                          | HQM001035         | 25,000–27,000                           | 250                            |
|                        | Reporting point returning to KPDX           | 2                          | KEIKO             | At or above 10,000                      | 250                            |
|                        | Departure Point to Olympic MOA              | 1                          | KPDX              | 25,000                                  | 250                            |
|                        | Reporting Point for Entry to W-237A         | 2                          | HQM               | 25,000                                  | 250                            |
|                        | First Navigation Fix after Exit from W-237A | 1                          | HQM               | 25,000                                  | 250                            |
|                        | Reporting Point Returning to KPDX           | 2                          | KEIKO             | 25,000                                  | 250                            |
| P-3 / P-8              | 1st Navigation Point to W-237A              | 1                          | MCCUL             | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | 2nd Navigation Point to W-237A              | 2                          | HQM               | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | Entry to W-237A                             | 3                          | HQM270030         | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | Exit from W-237A                            | 1                          | HQM270030         | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | 1st Navigation Point to NASWI               | 2                          | HQM               | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | Reporting Point Returning to NASWI          | 3                          | YETII             | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | 1st Navigation Point to W-237A              | 1                          | MCCUL             | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | 2nd Navigation Point to W-237A              | 2                          | NUW233035         | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | 3rd Navigation Point to W-237A              | 3                          | TOU               | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | Entry to W-237A                             | 4                          | TOU210030         | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | Exit from W-237A                            | 1                          | TOU210030         | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | 1st Navigation Point to NASWI               | 2                          | TOU               | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | 2nd Navigation Point to NASWI               | 3                          | NUW233035         | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |
|                        | Reporting Point Returning to NASWI          | 4                          | MCCUL             | 10,000–12,000                           | 260                            |

Notes: MOA = Military Operations Area, MSL = Mean Sea Level, NASWI = Naval Air Station Whidbey Island

### J.6.2.2 Maximum Noise Level

The analysis considered maximum noise levels for aircraft transiting to and from the Olympic MOA and W-237A. Like all aircraft, the EA-18G produces varied sound output under different conditions, as indicated in Table J-17. The distance listed in this table is the total distance to the aircraft, and the engine power represents the maximum and minimum power conditions as identified in Table J-3 and Table J-7. This table is useful as a general guide to the maximum noise levels from this aircraft and can be used to estimate maximum noise levels for different activities.

**Table J-17: Maximum Noise Level from the EA-18G for Different Distances and Engine Power**

| <i>Distance to aircraft (ft.)</i> | <i>Engine Pwr 75% NC</i>     | <i>Engine Pwr 89% NC</i>     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                   | <i>Airspeed: 250 knots</i>   | <i>Airspeed: 342 knots</i>   |
|                                   | <i>L<sub>max</sub> (dBA)</i> | <i>L<sub>max</sub> (dBA)</i> |
| 2,000                             | 81.0                         | 97.2                         |
| 3,000                             | 76.0                         | 92.1                         |
| 4,000                             | 71.8                         | 87.9                         |
| 5,000                             | 68.6                         | 84.5                         |
| 6,000                             | 66.1                         | 81.8                         |
| 7,000                             | 63.7                         | 79.4                         |
| 8,000                             | 61.2                         | 76.7                         |
| 9,000                             | 59.6                         | 75.1                         |
| 10,000                            | 57.3                         | 72.7                         |
| 11,000                            | 56.0                         | 71.4                         |
| 12,000                            | 54.4                         | 69.7                         |
| 13,000                            | 52.8                         | 68.0                         |
| 14,000                            | 51.7                         | 66.9                         |
| 15,000                            | 50.3                         | 65.5                         |

Notes: NC = Compressor Stage Rotations Per Minute (a measure of jet engine power setting), dBA = A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level, L<sub>max</sub> = Maximum Received Noise Level

The two power settings/speeds were selected based on likely transit scenarios. During transit to the MOA from MCCUL, aircraft would be maintaining altitude (15,000 ft.) at no more than 89 percent power. Therefore, determining maximum received noise levels from these aircraft should consider the 342 knots column of Table J-17.

During transit from the MOA to YETII, aircraft would likely be descending to reach YETII at 10,000 ft., at which point they would slow to 250 knots. Aircraft descend by reducing power; therefore, the lower power setting (250 knots, as indicated in Table J-17) should be used to calculate likely received noise levels from these aircraft, but the 342 knots column is also provided for maximum received noise levels.

Based on the data provided in Table J-17, the Navy estimated maximum noise levels likely to be received at several locations along Growler transit routes, provided in Table J-18. In the table, all values are approximate. "NA" indicates the aircraft would not likely be audible at that location, due to a distance from aircraft greater than 15.6 NM (Table J-15). For values presented as "< 35 dBA," the location could

be within the theoretical audibility range of the Growler, but was below the minimum value that MRNMap can calculate (35 dBA).

**Table J-18: Maximum Noise Levels at Selected Locations for EA-18G Growler Transit to/from Olympic MOA and W-237A**

| <i>Location</i>                | <i>Elevation<br/>(ft. MSL)</i> | <i>Transit to Olympic MOA<br/>(MCCUL to NUW 233065)</i> |                  | <i>Transit from Olympic MOA<br/>(to YETII)</i> |                  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
|                                |                                | <i>250 knots</i>                                        | <i>342 knots</i> | <i>250 knots</i>                               | <i>342 knots</i> |
| Mount Olympus                  | 9,570                          | NA                                                      | NA               | 75 dBA                                         | 91 dBA           |
| Hurricane Ridge                | 5,242                          | < 35 dBA                                                | < 35 dBA         | 68 dBA                                         | 84 dBA           |
| Glacier Meadows                | 4,180                          | NA                                                      | NA               | 60 dBA                                         | 75 dBA           |
| Sol Duc Falls                  | 2,047                          | < 35 dBA                                                | < 35 dBA         | 56 dBA                                         | 71 dBA           |
| Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center | 583                            | < 35 dBA                                                | < 35 dBA         | 52 dBA                                         | 67 dBA           |
| Lake Crescent                  | 580                            | 51 dBA                                                  | 66 dBA           | < 35 dBA                                       | < 35 dBA         |
| Port Angeles                   | 350                            | 50 dBA                                                  | 65 dBA           | < 35 dBA                                       | < 35 dBA         |

Note: NA = Not audible

This table indicates that if a person were standing on the peak of Mount Olympus, Growler aircraft transiting to the Olympic MOA would not be audible (NA), because aircraft on the route from MCCUL to the MOA would be beyond the audible range of Mount Olympus (Table J-15). Aircraft departing the MOA to YETII would be descending with a reduced power setting and likely be at least 3,500 ft. above the elevation of Mount Olympus. Assuming the aircraft was routed directly over Mount Olympus, the resulting maximum noise level would be approximately 75 dBA. If the aircraft were at a lower altitude or a higher power setting, the maximum noise level would be greater, up to 91 dBA. The maximum noise level would be lower if the aircraft were higher or not directly over the mountain peak.

Looking at another location, a person at Lake Crescent, which is beneath the transit route, could experience a maximum noise level of approximately 66 dBA from a Growler transiting from MCCUL to the Olympic MOA. When Growler aircraft depart the MOA to YETII, the maximum noise level would be less than 35 dBA for aircraft departing from the northern half of the MOA. Aircraft departing from the central or southern part of the Olympic MOA would not be audible at Lake Crescent.

As described above, for all locations the most likely maximum levels for aircraft transiting to the Olympic MOA would be found under the “342 knots” column, and under the “250 knots” column for aircraft departing the MOA.

## **J.7 ACOUSTIC MONITORING REPORT**

As discussed previously in this appendix, modeling is the appropriate methodology for predicting potential impacts from aircraft operating in SUA. However, the Navy included results from an acoustic monitoring study conducted by the NPS within the Olympic National Park in 2010 (National Park Service, 2016), as it is the most relevant study of its type in this area.

The data for this study were collected in 2010 but are considered relevant to current conditions related to Navy aircraft training, as the level of Navy activity in 2010 is generally consistent with the baseline data presented in Section J.5 (Airspace Training and Testing Activities) of this Airspace Noise Analysis, and the transit routes and operating airspace remain unchanged from 2010.

Of five ground locations where noise sampling took place, three (Hoh River Trail, Third Beach Trail, and Lake Ozette) lie beneath the Olympic MOA. Two locations (Hurricane Ridge and Lake Crescent-Pyramid



Mountain Trail) occur outside the Olympic MOA, but lie near or beneath the route typically taken by Navy aircraft transiting to the Olympic MOA. The purpose of this monitoring effort was to characterize existing sound levels and estimate natural ambient acoustic baselines for these areas, as well as identify audible sound sources.

The natural daytime ambient acoustic baseline for this study was found to be 34.1 dBA for Hoh River Trail, 35.6 dBA for Third Beach Trail, 31.4 dBA for Lake Ozette, 23.1 for Hurricane Ridge, and 32.3 for Lake Crescent-Pyramid Mountain Trail. Each of these is the median, or L<sub>50</sub> value, meaning that half the time, the soundscape was quieter than the cited value.

Data from the study are summarized below in Tables J-19 and J-20. Table J-19 reports the percent of time that sound levels were above four metrics (35, 45, 52, and 60 dBA) at each of the measurement locations for the winter season. The metric of 52 dBA is the Environmental Protection Agency's speech interference threshold for speaking in a raised voice to an audience at 10 meters; and 60 dBA provides a basis for estimating impacts on normal voice communications at 3 ft. Hikers and visitors viewing scenic vistas in the park would likely be conducting these types of conversations.

**Table J-19: Percent Time Above Metrics for Winter Season Beneath the Olympic MOA**

| Site Name                            | % Time above sound level:<br>Daytime (7 am to 7 pm) |        |        |        | % Time above sound level:<br>Nighttime (7 pm to 7 am) |        |        |        |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                      | 35 dBA                                              | 45 dBA | 52 dBA | 60 dBA | 35 dBA                                                | 45 dBA | 52 dBA | 60 dBA |
| Hoh River Trail                      | 41.39                                               | 2.29   | 0.21   | 0.01   | 29.88                                                 | 3.86   | 0.21   | 0.00   |
| Third Beach Trail                    | 57.43                                               | 19.29  | 5.79   | 0.18   | 58.91                                                 | 19.46  | 4.83   | 0.33   |
| Lake Ozette                          | 40.14                                               | 16.67  | 7.85   | 1.19   | 44.36                                                 | 16.15  | 5.18   | 1.40   |
| Hurricane Ridge                      | 15.46                                               | 2.70   | 0.76   | 0.04   | 14.05                                                 | 3.31   | 1.02   | 0.04   |
| Lake Crescent-Pyramid Mountain Trail | 50.46                                               | 17.56  | 4.41   | 0.12   | 29.25                                                 | 12.40  | 5.50   | 0.34   |

Notes: MOA = Military Operations Area, dBA = A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level

**Table J-20: Summary of Acoustic Observer Log Data for All Sites for the Winter Season**

| Site Name                            | % Time Audible: Daytime (7 am to 7 pm)    |                       |                    |                |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                                      | Fixed-Wing Aircraft and Helicopter Sounds | Other Aircraft Sounds | Other Human Sounds | Natural Sounds |
| Hoh River Trail                      | 0.5                                       | 11.2                  | 4.9                | 83.4           |
| Third Beach Trail                    | 1.3                                       | 3.7                   | 4.2                | 90.8           |
| Lake Ozette                          | 0.8                                       | 6.3                   | 0.4                | 92.5           |
| Hurricane Ridge                      | 0.4                                       | 8.3                   | 0.4                | 90.9           |
| Lake Crescent-Pyramid Mountain Trail | 0.3                                       | 7.2                   | 57.8               | 34.7           |

As noted in the National Park Service study, none of these metrics should be construed as thresholds of impact. The results indicate that, at the Hoh River Trail site where aircraft sounds were audible 11.7 percent of the time, 52 dBA was exceeded less than 0.3 percent of the time. At the other sites, while the time above 52 dBA was greater, approximately 1–8 percent, fewer of those occurrences appear to be related to aircraft noise. Natural sounds were the predominant sources of sounds measured at all three sites, and were audible between 34 and 93 percent of the time.

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## Appendix K Geographic Mitigation Assessment



# Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Northwest Training and Testing

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## **APPENDIX K GEOGRAPHIC MITIGATION ASSESSMENT**

### **K.1 Introduction**

As described in Chapter 5 (Mitigation), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) will implement mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) Proposed Action. Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) provides a description of activities that will be conducted under the Proposed Action. Mitigation measures the Navy will implement under the Proposed Action are organized into two categories: procedural mitigation and mitigation areas. Procedural mitigation measures are discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Procedural mitigation will be implemented whenever and wherever applicable activities take place within the Study Area. For example, the Navy will use trained Lookouts to observe for marine species (e.g., marine mammals) prior to, during, and after applicable activities in the NWTT Study Area. The purpose of this Appendix is to present the Navy's assessment of mitigation areas for the Study Area. Mitigation areas are geographic locations where the Navy will implement additional mitigation measures (i.e., geographic mitigation, in addition to procedural mitigation) for applicable acoustic, explosive, or physical disturbance and strike stressors. See Chapter 5 (Mitigation) for additional information about the Navy's mitigation development process, such as a brief history of mitigation developed for previous at-sea environmental compliance documents, definitions of mitigation terminology, and details on Navy monitoring, research, and reporting initiatives. See Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) for additional information on the acoustic, explosive, and physical disturbance and strike stressors used under the Proposed Action.

### **K.2 Mitigation Area Development Process**

The Navy's mitigation area development process included an assessment of the marine and terrestrial portions of the NWTT Study Area to develop mitigation areas for the Proposed Action. In doing so, the Navy reanalyzed existing mitigation areas developed under the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, assessed habitats identified internally by the Navy or suggested through comments received during NEPA scoping and on the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and assessed habitats identified by regulatory agencies during the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation and permitting processes.

The Navy conducted a detailed review and assessment of each potential mitigation measure individually and then all potential mitigation measures collectively to determine if, as a whole, the mitigation will be effective at avoiding or reducing potential impacts and practical to implement with regard to safety, sustainability, and the Navy's ability to meet mission requirements. The Navy assessed the manner and degree to which a potential mitigation area is likely to avoid or reduce potential impacts while still being practical to implement using the criteria discussed in Section K.2.1 (Biological Effectiveness Assessment Criteria) and Section K.2.2 (Operational Assessment Criteria). The Navy operational community (i.e., leadership from the aviation, surface, subsurface, and special warfare communities; leadership from the research and acquisition community; and training and testing experts), environmental planners, and scientists provided input on the effectiveness and practicality of mitigation implementation. Data inputs for mitigation area assessment and development included the operational information described in Section K.2.2 (Operational Assessment Criteria) and Section 5.2.3 (Practicality of Implementation), the best available science discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences), published literature, predicted activity impact footprints, and marine species monitoring and density

data. The Navy will not implement measures that did not meet the appropriate balance between being both effective as well as practical to implement, as described in the operational assessments in the sections below, Section K.3.4 (Geographic Mitigation Considered but Eliminated), and Section 5.5 (Measures Considered but Eliminated). Additional information about the Navy's operational assessment criteria, including information on factors that affect practicality of implementation, is included in Section 5.2.3 (Practicality of Implementation).

As discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation), the Navy coordinated its mitigation, including the development of mitigation areas, with the appropriate regulatory agencies, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through the consultation and permitting processes. The Navy Record of Decision will document all mitigation measures the Navy will implement under the Proposed Action. The NMFS Record of Decision, MMPA Regulations and Letters of Authorization, ESA Biological Opinions, and other applicable consultation documents will include the subset of mitigation measures applicable to the resources for which the Navy has consulted.

#### **K.2.1 Biological Effectiveness Assessment Criteria**

Mitigation areas are designed to help avoid or reduce potential impacts in key areas of importance. Therefore, the mitigation benefit is discussed qualitatively in terms of the context of impact avoidance or reduction. The Navy considers a mitigation area to be effective if it meets the following criteria:

- **The mitigation area is a key area of biological or ecological importance or contains cultural resources:** The best available science suggests that the mitigation area contains submerged cultural resources (e.g., shipwrecks) or is particularly important to one or more species or resources for a biologically important life process (i.e., foraging, migration, reproduction) or ecological function (e.g., live hard bottom that provides critical ecosystem functions); and
- **The mitigation will result in an avoidance or reduction of impacts:** Implementing the mitigation will likely avoid or reduce potential impacts on: (1) species, stocks, or populations of marine mammals based on data regarding their seasonality, density, and behavior; or (2) other biological or cultural resources based on their distribution and physical properties. Furthermore, implementing the mitigation will not shift or transfer adverse effects from one species to another (e.g., to a more vulnerable or sensitive species).

#### **K.2.2 Operational Assessment Criteria**

Mitigation measures are expected to have some degree of impact on the training and testing activities that implement them (e.g., modifying where and when activities occur, ceasing an activity in response to a sighting). The Navy is able to accept a certain level of impact on its military readiness activities because of the benefit that mitigation measures provide for avoiding or reducing impacts on environmental and cultural resources. The Navy's focus during mitigation assessment and development is that mitigation measures must meet the appropriate balance between being both effective as well as practical to implement. To evaluate practicality, the Navy operational community conducted an extensive and comprehensive assessment to determine how and to what degree potential mitigation measures would be compatible with planning, scheduling, and conducting training and testing activities under the Proposed Action in order to meet the Navy's Title 10 requirements.

During its assessment to determine how and to what degree the implementation of mitigation would be compatible with meeting the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, the Navy considered a mitigation measure to be practical to implement if it met all criteria discussed below:

- **Implementing the mitigation is safe:** Mitigation measures must not increase safety risks to Navy personnel and equipment, or to the public. When assessing whether implementing a mitigation measure would be safe, the Navy factored in the potential for increased pilot fatigue; accelerated fatigue-life of aircraft; typical fuel restrictions of participating aircraft; locations of refueling stations; proximity to aircraft emergency landing fields, critical medical facilities, and search and rescue resources; space restrictions of the observation platforms; the ability to de-conflict platforms and activities to ensure that training and testing activities do not impact each other; and the ability to avoid interaction with non-Navy sea space and airspace uses, such as established commercial air traffic routes, commercial vessel shipping lanes, and areas used for energy exploration or alternative energy development. Other safety considerations included identifying if mitigation measures would reasonably allow Lookouts to safely and effectively maintain situational awareness while observing the mitigation zones during typical activity conditions, or if the mitigation would increase the safety risk for personnel. For example, the safety risk would increase if Lookouts were required to direct their attention away from essential mission requirements.
- **Implementing the mitigation is sustainable:** One of the primary factors that the Navy incorporates into the planning and scheduling of its training and testing activities is the amount and type of available resources, such as funding, personnel, and equipment. Mitigation measures must be sustainable over the life of the Proposed Action, meaning that they will not require the use of resources in excess of what is available. When assessing whether implementing a mitigation measure would be sustainable, the Navy considered if the measure would require excessive time on station or time away from homeport for Navy personnel, require the use of additional personnel (i.e., manpower) or equipment (e.g., adding a small boat to serve as an additional observation platform), or result in additional operational costs (e.g., increased fuel consumption, equipment maintenance, or acquisition of new equipment).
- **Implementing the mitigation allows the Navy to continue meeting its mission requirements:** The Navy considered if each individual measure and the iterative and cumulative impact of all potential measures would be within the Navy's legal authority to implement. The Navy also considered if mitigation would modify training or testing activities in a way that would prevent individual activities from meeting their mission objectives and if mitigation would prevent the Navy from meeting its national security requirements or statutorily-mandated Title 10 requirements, such as by:
  - Impacting training and testing realism or preventing ready access to ranges, operating areas, facilities, or range support structures (which would reduce realism and present sea space and airspace conflicts).
  - Impacting the ability for Sailors to train and become proficient in using sensors and weapon systems as would be required in areas analogous to where the military operates or causing an erosion of capabilities or reduction in perishable skills (which would result in a significant risk to personnel or equipment safety during military missions and combat operations).
  - Impacting the ability for units to meet their individual training and certification requirements (which would impact the ability to deploy with the required level of readiness necessary to accomplish any tasking by Combatant Commanders).
  - Impacting the ability to certify forces to deploy to meet national security tasking (which would limit the flexibility of Combatant Commanders and warfighters to project power, engage in multi-national operations, and conduct the full range of naval warfighting capabilities in support of national security interests).
  - Impacting the ability of researchers, program managers, and weapons system acquisition programs to conduct accurate acoustic research to meet research objectives, effectively test systems and platforms (and components of these systems and platforms) before full-scale

production or delivery to the fleet, or complete shipboard maintenance, repairs, or pierside testing prior to at-sea operations (which would not allow the Navy to ensure safety, functionality, and accuracy in military mission and combat conditions per required acquisition milestones or on an as-needed basis to meet operational requirements).

- Requiring the Navy to provide advance notification of specific times and locations of Navy platforms, such as platforms using active sonar (which would present national security concerns).
- Reducing the Navy’s ability to be ready, maintain deployment schedules, or respond to national emergencies or emerging national security challenges (which would present national security concerns).

### K.3 Mitigation Areas to be Implemented

As a result of its biological effectiveness and operational assessments, the Navy developed numerous mitigation areas in the NWTT Study Area. Section K.3.1 (Mitigation Areas for Seafloor Resources) describes geographic mitigation the Navy will implement to avoid or reduce potential impacts on seafloor resources throughout the NWTT Offshore Area and NWTT Inland Waters. Geographic mitigation developed for marine species is discussed in Section K.3.2 (Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in the NWTT Offshore Area) and Section K.3.3 (Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in NWTT Inland Waters).

#### K.3.1 Mitigation Areas for Seafloor Resources

As outlined in Table K-1 and shown in Figure K-1, the Navy will implement mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts from explosives and physical disturbance and strike stressors on submerged cultural resources (i.e., shipwrecks), sensitive seafloor resources, and any biological resources that inhabit, shelter, rest, feed, or occur in the mitigation areas.

**Table K-1: Seafloor Resource Mitigation Areas in the NWTT Study Area**

| <i>Mitigation Area Description</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Stressor or Activity</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explosives</li> <li>• Physical disturbance and strikes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b><u>Resource Protection Focus</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live hard bottom</li> <li>• Artificial reefs</li> <li>• Shipwrecks</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b><u>Mitigation Requirements</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seafloor Resource Mitigation Areas (year-round)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within the anchor swing circle of live hard bottom, artificial reefs, and shipwrecks, the Navy will not conduct Precision Anchoring training exercises (except in designated areas).</li> <li>– Within a 350 yd. radius of live hard bottom, artificial reefs, and shipwrecks, the Navy will not conduct explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities or explosive mine neutralization activities involving Navy divers (except in designated locations), and the Navy will not place mine shapes, anchors, or mooring devices on the seafloor (except in designated areas).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

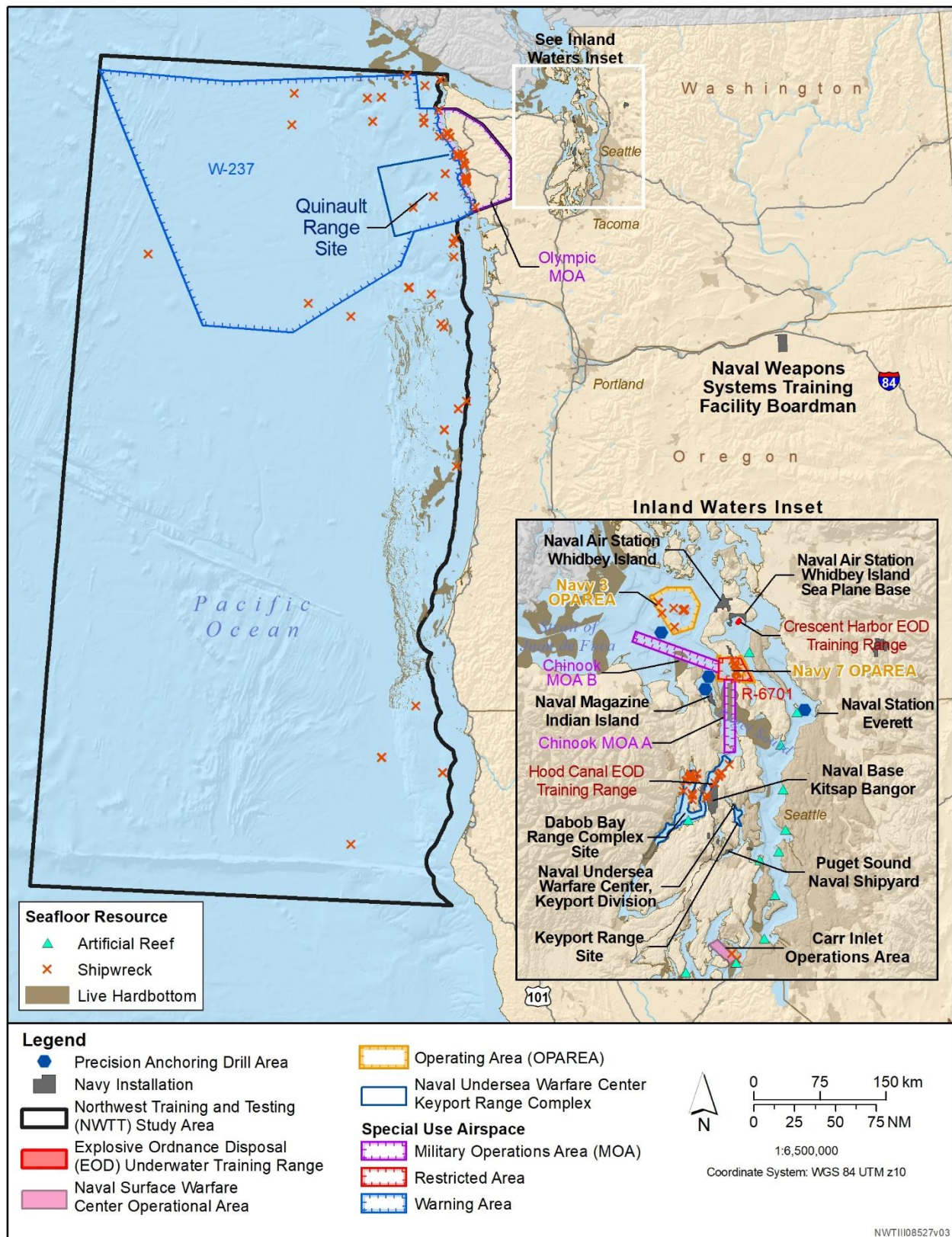


Figure K-1: Seafloor Resource Mitigation Areas in the NWTT Study Area

#### **K.3.1.1 Resource Description**

Live hard bottom habitats and artificial structures (e.g., artificial reefs, shipwrecks) provide attachment substrate for aquatic vegetation and invertebrates, such as corals, seaweed, macroalgae, and sponges. These habitats in turn support a community of organisms, such as fish, shrimp, crabs, barnacles, worms, and sea cucumbers. Dive sites occur throughout nearshore areas of the Study Area where there are shipwrecks and artificial reefs, making these resources highly valuable from a socioeconomic standpoint. Similarly, live hard bottom and artificial structures provide important habitat for commercially and recreationally important fish species. Historic shipwrecks are classified as archaeological resources and are an important part of maritime history. For additional information on the biological, cultural, and socioeconomic importance of seafloor resources and their associated ecosystem components, refer to Section 3.3 (Marine Habitats), Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals), Section 3.7 (Marine Vegetation), Section 3.8 (Marine Invertebrates), Section 3.9 (Fishes), Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), and Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.1.2 Mitigation Area Assessment**

##### **K.3.1.2.1 Biological Effectiveness**

The seafloor resource mitigation is a continuation from the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS. Figure K-1 shows the relevant seafloor resources and the Navy training or testing locations that overlap them. The Navy developed mitigation areas as either the anchor swing circle diameter or a 350-yard (yd.) radius around a seafloor resource, as indicated by the best available georeferenced data. Without this mitigation, explosives and physical disturbance and strike stressors could potentially impact live hard bottom, artificial reefs, shipwrecks, and their associated ecosystem components during certain training and testing activities in the Study Area.

The mitigation areas are particularly important to one or more resources for a biologically important ecological function (i.e., live hard bottom habitat and artificial reefs that provide critical ecosystem functions). Mitigating within the anchor swing circle will protect seafloor resources during Precision Anchoring training exercises when factoring in environmental conditions that could affect anchoring position and swing circle size, such as winds, currents, and water depth. For other activities that will implement the mitigation, a 350 yd. radius around a seafloor resource is a conservatively sized mitigation area that will provide protection well beyond the maximum expected impact footprint (e.g., crater and expelled material radius) of the explosives and non-explosive practice munitions used in the Study Area. The mitigation area size was designed to extend beyond the military expended material with the largest footprint for all Study Areas where this mitigation measure is implemented. The military expended material with the largest footprint (which is used in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area and Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Study Area, but not in the NWTT Study Area) is an explosive mine with a 650 lb. net explosive weight, which has an estimated impact footprint of approximately 14,800 square feet (ft.) and an associated radius of 22.7 yd. (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2018b). The largest explosive applicable to this mitigation in the NWTT Study Area has a charge size of 60 lb. net explosive weight, which has an estimated impact footprint of 281 square ft. and an associated radius of 3.15 yd. Therefore, the 350 yd. mitigation area is well beyond the maximum expected direct impact footprint for the activities listed in Table K-1, and it further mitigates some level of indirect impact from explosive disturbances. As described in Section 3.3 (Marine Habitats), other habitat types, such as soft bottom, are expected to recover relatively quickly from potential disturbances; therefore, there would be a limited benefit of implementing this mitigation for other habitat types.



#### K.3.1.2.2 Operational Assessment

Input from the operational community indicates that the mitigation detailed in Table K-1 is practical to implement. To facilitate mitigation implementation, the Navy will include maps of the best available georeferenced data for live hard bottom, artificial reefs, and shipwrecks in its Protective Measures Assessment Protocol. Mitigation areas apply to georeferenced resources because the Navy requires accurate resource identification and mapping for mitigation to be both effective as well as practical to implement.

Implementing additional mitigation for other activities or types of seafloor resources would not allow the Navy to continue meeting its mission requirements to successfully accomplish military readiness objectives. Expanding the mitigation to protect additional seafloor features where marine species are known to occur (e.g., soft bottom, which provides habitat for resources such as worms and clams) would essentially result in the Navy not conducting training and testing activities throughout a significant portion of the Study Area. This would prohibit the Navy from accessing its mission-essential activity locations. For example, operational parameters require that explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities occur within a specific range of water depths (e.g., shallower than 1,000 ft., and typically 300 ft.). As described in Section K.3.1 (Mitigation Areas for Seafloor Resources) and Section K.3.2 (Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in the NWTT Offshore Area), the Navy will implement mitigation to not conduct Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing within Seafloor Resource Mitigation Areas, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area, the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area, and the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area. Additionally, within 20 nautical miles (NM) from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Navy will implement seasonal restrictions on the number of explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing events as well as the number of explosives in bins E4 and E7 that can be used during the event annually and over a 7-year period. These mitigation areas collectively overlap a significant portion of the suitable sea space where Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing can occur based on operational parameters. Further restrictions on the locations or timing of this activity would be impractical to implement because such mitigation would preclude ready access to the necessary environmental and oceanographic conditions that replicate military mission and combat conditions (which would reduce event realism), prevent the Navy from testing systems and platforms (and components of these systems and platforms) before full-scale production or delivery to the fleet (which would not allow the Navy to ensure safety, functionality, and accuracy in military mission and combat conditions per required acquisition milestones or on an as-needed basis to meet operational requirements).

In many instances, expanding seafloor resource mitigation would push training and testing activities farther offshore, which would also have implications for safety and sustainability. Moving activities farther offshore would increase the distance from aircraft emergency landing fields, critical medical facilities, and search and rescue resources; would require excessive time on station or time away from homeport for Navy personnel; and would result in significant increases to operational costs.

In summary, the operational community determined that implementing mitigation for seafloor resources beyond what is detailed in Table K-1 would be incompatible with the practicality assessment criteria for safety, sustainability, and mission requirements. For additional information on the biological, cultural, and socioeconomic importance of seafloor resources and their associated ecosystem components, refer to Section 3.3 (Marine Habitats), Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals), Section 3.5 (Sea Turtles), Section 3.6 (Marine Birds), Section 3.7 (Marine Vegetation), Section 3.8 (Marine Invertebrates),

Section 3.9 (Fish), Section 3.11 (Cultural Resources), and Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice).

### K.3.2 Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in the NWTT Offshore Area

As detailed in Table K-2, shown in Figure K-2, Figure K-3, Figure K-4, and Figure K-5, and described in the sections below, the Navy developed mitigation areas in the NWTT Offshore Area to further avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine mammals, sea turtles, ESA-listed fish, and marbled murrelets.

**Table K-2: Marine Species Mitigation Areas in the NWTT Offshore Area**

| <i>Mitigation Area Description</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p><b><u>Stressor or Activity</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sonar (mitigation does not apply to active sonar sources used for safety of navigation)</li> <li>• Explosives</li> <li>• Physical disturbance and strikes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b><u>Resource Protection Focus</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine mammals (humpback whale, gray whale, Southern Resident killer whale, harbor porpoise)</li> <li>• Sea turtles (leatherback sea turtle)</li> <li>• Seabirds (marbled murrelet)</li> <li>• Fish (bull trout, steelhead, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, green sturgeon)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b><u>Mitigation Requirements<sup>1</sup></u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area (year-round or seasonal if specified)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive training activities.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive testing activities (except explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing).</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive missile training activities.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will issue annual seasonal awareness notification messages to alert ships and aircraft to the possible presence of increased concentrations of Southern Resident killer whales from December 1 to June 30, humpback whales from May 1 through December 31, and gray whales from May 1 to November 30. For safe navigation and to avoid interactions with large whales, the Navy will instruct vessels to remain vigilant to the presence of Southern Resident killer whales, humpback whales, and gray whales that may be vulnerable to vessel strikes or potential impacts from training and testing activities. Platforms will use the information from the awareness notification messages to assist their visual observation of applicable mitigation zones during training and testing activities and to aid in the implementation of procedural mitigation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum combined total of 33 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during testing annually within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area.</li> <li>▪ To the maximum extent practical, the Navy will conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing from July 1 through September 30 when operating within 20 NM from shore.</li> <li>▪ From October 1 through June 30, the Navy will conduct a maximum of one explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing event, not to exceed the use of 20 explosives from bin E4 and 3 explosives from bin E7 annually, and not to exceed the use of 60 explosives from bin E4 and 9 explosives from bin E7 over 7 years.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive large-caliber gunnery training activities.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive bombing training activities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |



**Table K-2: Marine Species Mitigation Areas in the NWTT Offshore Area (continued)**

| <i>Mitigation Area Description</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Helicopter, – Maritime Patrol Aircraft, – Ship, or – Submarine training activities (which involve the use of mid-frequency or high-frequency active sonar).</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive Anti-Submarine Warfare Torpedo Exercise – Submarine training activities (which involve the use of mid-frequency or high-frequency active sonar).</li> <li>▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum of one Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training event within 12 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site. Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events within 12 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site will be cancelled or moved to another training location if Southern Resident killer whales are detected at the planned training location during the event planning process, or immediately prior to the event, as applicable.</li> <li>▪ During explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing, the Navy will not use explosives in bin E7 closer than 6 NM from shore in the Quinault Range Site.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive small- and medium-caliber gunnery training activities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area (year-round)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum of 32 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training annually.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum combined total of 33 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during testing annually within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive bombing training activities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area (year-round)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum combined total of 33 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during testing annually within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area (May 1–November 30)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area from May 1 to November 30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will not use surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training or testing.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area (July 1–November 30)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area from July 1 to November 30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will not use surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training or testing.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> Should national security present a requirement to conduct training or testing prohibited by the mitigation requirements specified in this table, naval units will obtain permission from the appropriate designated Command authority prior to commencement of the activity. The Navy will provide NMFS with advance notification and include relevant information about the event (e.g., sonar hours, explosives use, non-explosive practice munitions use) in its annual activity reports to NMFS.

The Navy will continue to implement the following mitigation area measures in the NWTT Offshore Area from the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS (which were therefore also included in the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS):

- Requirements to not conduct explosive activities (except for a new testing activity, Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing) and certain non-explosive training and testing activities within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area.
- Requirements to restrict certain non-explosive activities within 20 NM and 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area.
- Requirements to not conduct explosive activities and non-explosive bombing within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area. For this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy extended this explosive mitigation requirement to Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities, a new activity not covered in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS.
- Annual restrictions on the use of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training and testing within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area. Additional information about how this mitigation measure was expanded for testing is provided below with the other new measures developed for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

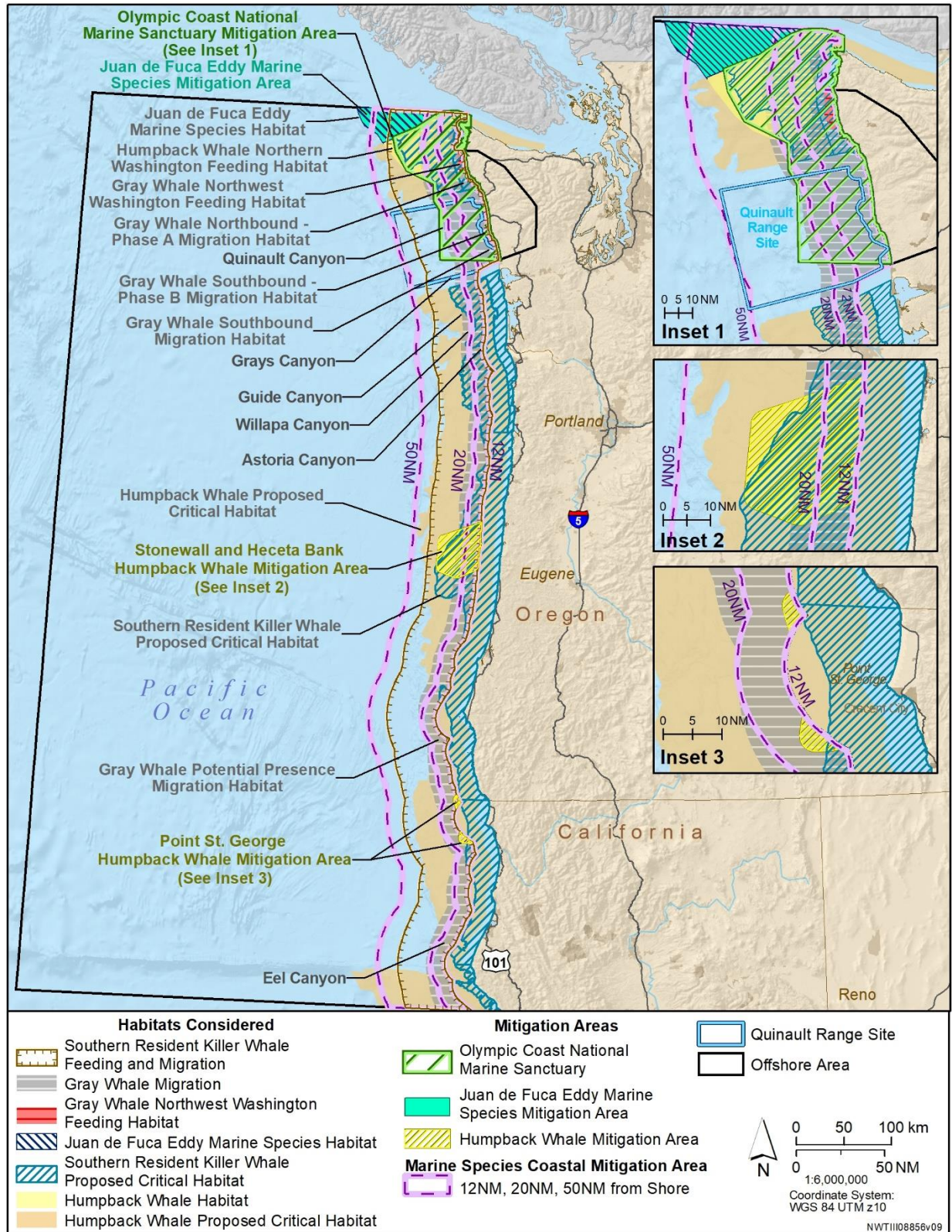
The Navy identified several opportunities to increase its mitigation measures applicable to the NWTT Offshore Area based on its initial analysis of the best available science and potential mitigation suggested by scoping comments and during development of the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS:

- Requirements to not use surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training or testing, and to not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing within the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area from May through November.
- Requirements to not use surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training or testing, and to not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing within the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area from July through November.

For this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy further identified additional opportunities to increase its mitigation measures in the NWTT Offshore Area based on its ongoing analysis of the best available science and potential mitigation suggested by comments on the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and during the MMPA and ESA consultation processes. The Navy newly developed or modified the following mitigation area measures for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS:

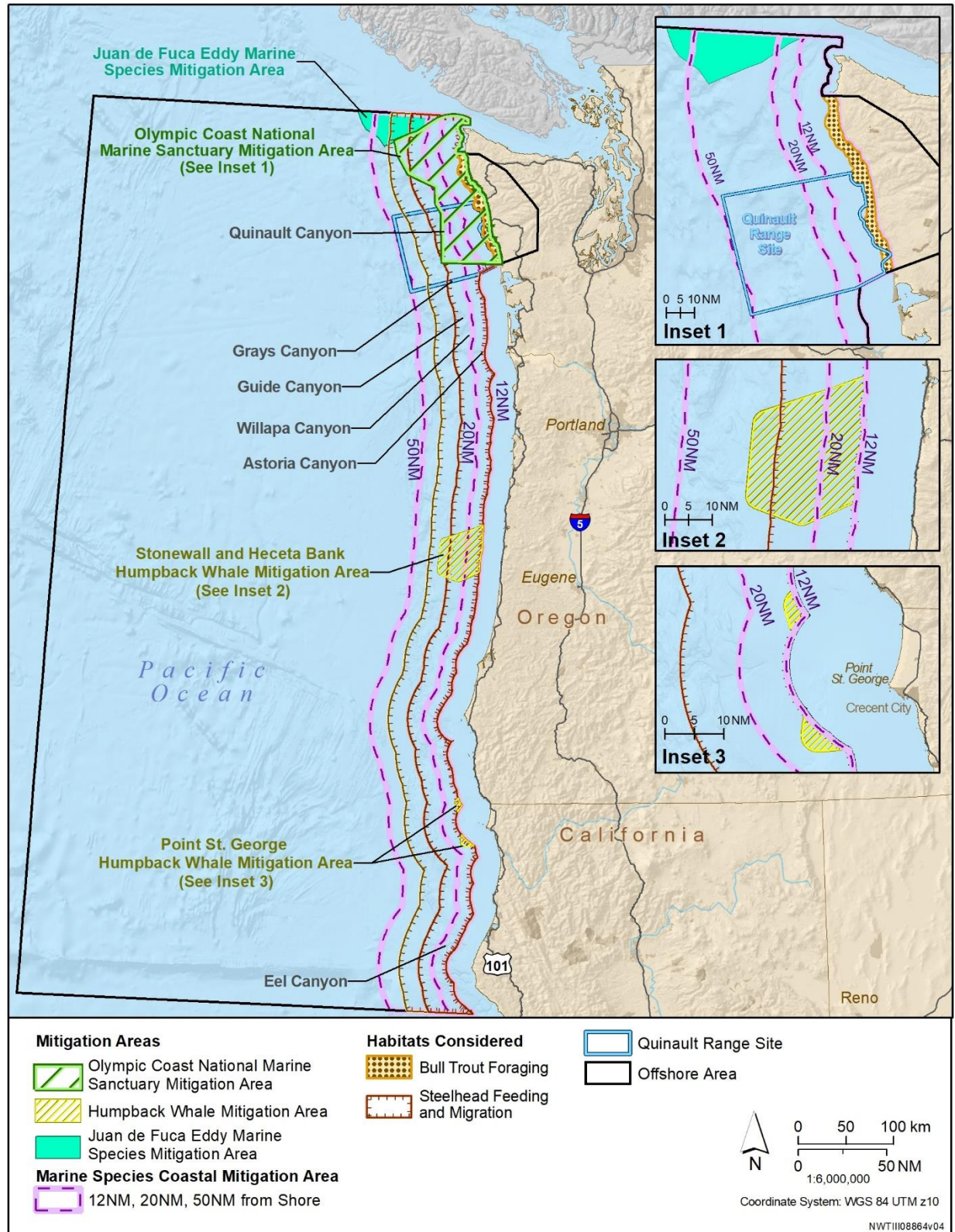
- Seasonal awareness notification mitigation within 50 NM from shore to alert ships and aircraft operating within the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area to the possible seasonal presence of concentrations of humpback whales, gray whales, and Southern Resident killer whales.
- Requirements to conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing from July 1 to September 30 to the maximum extent practical when operating within 20 NM from shore.
- Requirements from October 1 through June 30 to conduct a maximum of one explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing event, not to exceed the use of 20 explosives from bin E4 and 3 explosives from bin E7 annually, and not to exceed the use of 60 explosives from bin E4 and 9 explosives from bin E7 over 7 years within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area.
- Requirements to not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing event within a new mitigation area known as the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area.
- Requirements to not use explosives in bin E7 closer than 6 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site.

- Annual restrictions on the use of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during testing in three combined mitigation areas: within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the new Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, and within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area. As described above for measures continued from the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, the annual restriction for testing previously only applied to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area. Furthermore, for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy removed an exception in the mitigation language that excluded the Quinault Range Site from the annual sonar restrictions. Now, the Navy's annual restrictions will apply throughout the entire Olympic Coastal National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area, including within the portion of the mitigation area that overlaps the Quinault Range Site.
- Requirements to conduct a maximum of one Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training event within 12 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site, and to cancel or move Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events within 12 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site if Southern Resident killer whales are detected at the planned training location during the event planning process, or immediately prior to the event, as applicable.



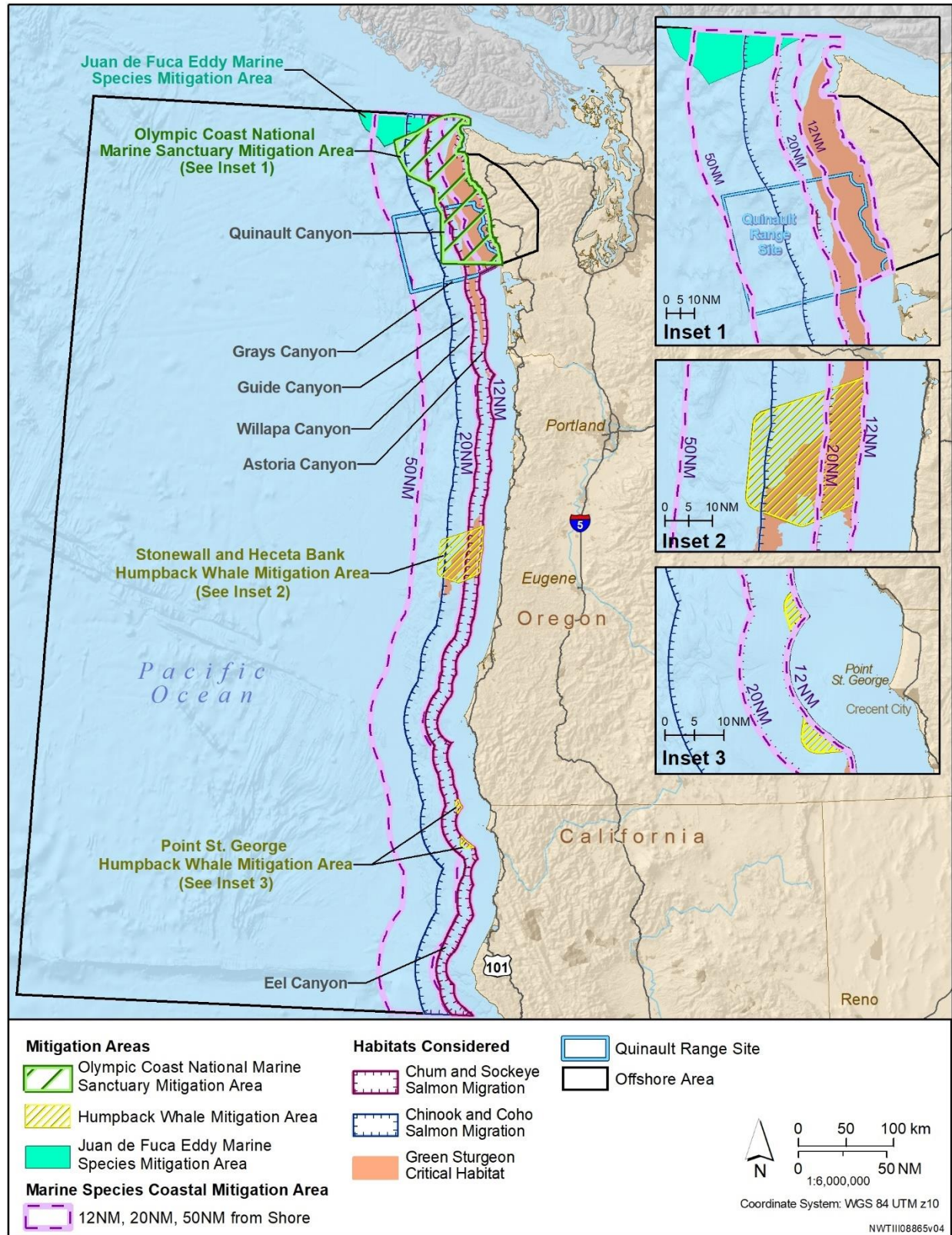
**Figure K-2: Marine Species Mitigation Areas and Marine Mammal Habitats Considered in the NWT Offshore Area**





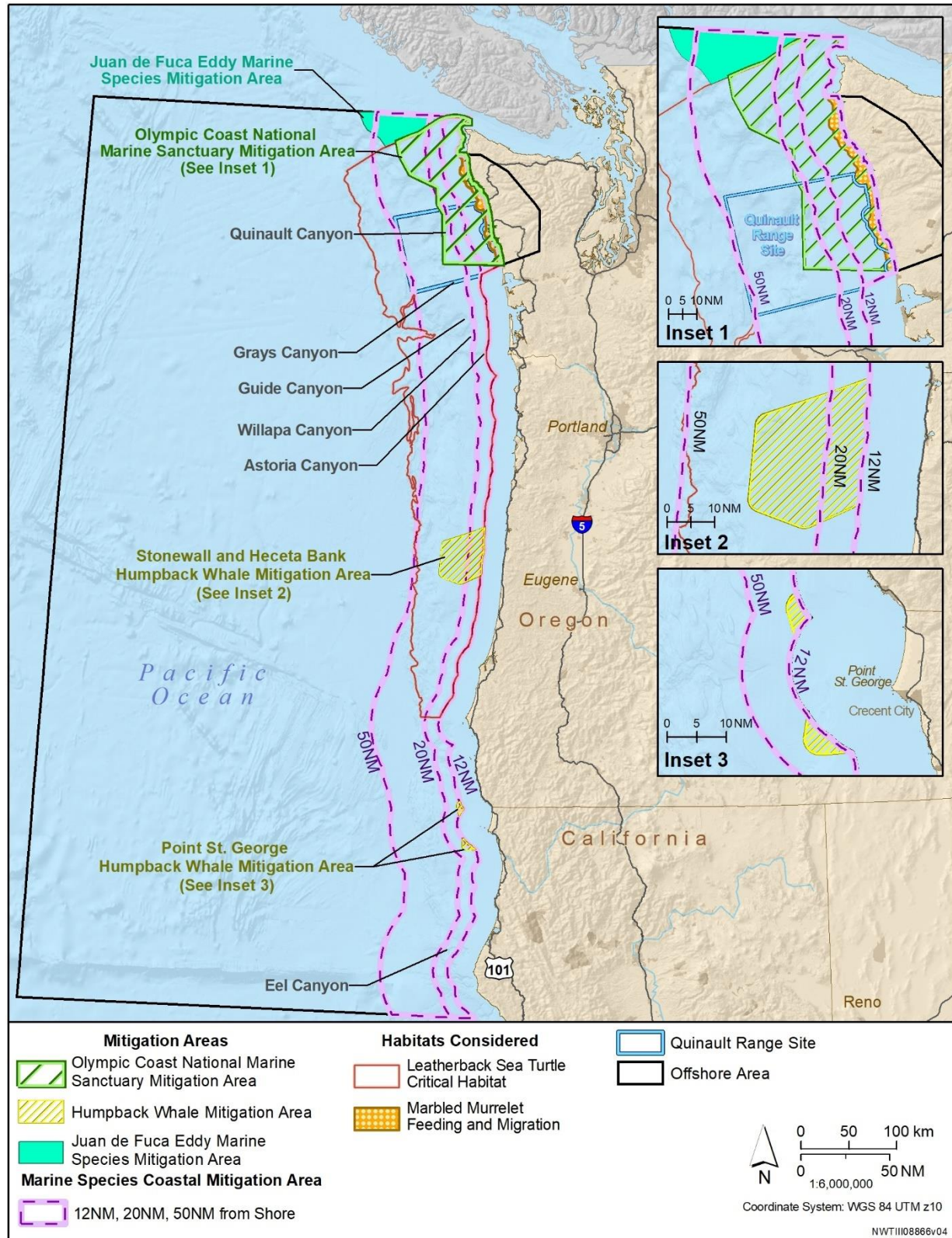
**Figure K-3: Marine Species Mitigation Areas and Bull Trout and Steelhead Habitats Considered in the NWTT Offshore Area**





**Figure K-4: Marine Species Mitigation Areas and Salmon and Green Sturgeon Habitats Considered in the NWTT Offshore Area**





**Figure K-5: Marine Species Mitigation Areas and Sea Turtle and Marbled Murrelet Habitats Considered in the NWTT Offshore Area**

### K.3.2.1 Resource Description

The Navy conducted a comprehensive assessment of the NWTT Offshore Area to identify habitats that serve as key areas of importance for biological life processes (i.e., foraging, migration, reproduction) for marine species. These key habitat areas, which include areas established by NMFS or the USFWS as critical habitat, identified by Calambokidis et al. (2015) as biologically important areas for marine mammals, or otherwise identified through the best available science are described in the sections below, organized by species. The portions of the habitats that overlap the NWTT Offshore Area are shown in Figure K-2, Figure K-3, Figure K-4, and Figure K-5. A map of Marine Protected Areas in the NWTT Offshore Area is presented in Section 6.1.2 (Marine Protected Areas).

Because the purpose of developing mitigation areas is to avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine species within key areas of biological importance, the sections below focus on areas identified as important foraging, migration, and reproduction habitats for marine species. Therefore, not all marine species or areas with known marine species occurrence are discussed in the sections below. For example, although blue whales occur seasonally in the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science does not indicate that any particular area within the NWTT Offshore Area serves as a key area of biological importance for this species.

#### K.3.2.1.1 Humpback Whale

Humpback whales are distributed worldwide in all major oceans and most seas. They are most abundant during the summer on high-latitude feeding grounds, and during the winter in the tropical and subtropical breeding habitats (Barlow et al., 2011; Bettridge et al., 2015; Calambokidis et al., 2017; Calambokidis et al., 2010; Keen et al., 2018; Wade et al., 2016). Humpback whales are typically most abundant in shelf and slope waters (<2,000 meters [m] deep), are often associated with areas of high productivity (Becker et al., 2010; Becker et al., 2012; Forney et al., 2012), and primarily feed along the shelf break and continental slope (Green et al., 1992). Humpback whales are present in the NWTT Offshore Area year-round, with peak occurrence off the Washington and Oregon coasts from May through November, and off the northern California coast from April through December (Calambokidis et al., 2004; Calambokidis et al., 2010; Dohl et al., 1983; Forney & Barlow, 1998; Green et al., 1992). Passive acoustic recorders deployed along the coast of Washington from 2014 to 2017 detected humpback whales within the southern portion of Quinault Range primarily from November through April. Moving south from Quinault off the Washington coast, recorders have primarily detected humpback whales off Westport from October through June, off Willapa from October through April, and just north of the Columbia River mouth from September through December (Emmons et al., 2019). Humpback whale detections were greatest in these areas in fall through spring (i.e., September through June).

In 2019, NMFS proposed to designate critical habitat for the Central America, Mexico, and Western North Pacific Distinct Population Segments of humpback whales (84 Federal Register [FR] 54354). As shown in Figure K-2, the proposed critical habitat units for the Central America and Mexico Distinct Population Segments overlap the NWTT Offshore Area. The primary essential feature identified for these proposed humpback whale critical habitat areas is prey species (primarily euphausiids and small pelagic schooling fishes) of sufficient quantity, quality, and availability to support individual growth, reproduction, and development, as well as overall population growth. Calambokidis et al. (2015) identified a total of seven areas as biologically important humpback whale feeding habitats off the United States West Coast, three of which are located in the NWTT Offshore Area: (1) May to November at Stonewall and Heceta Bank, (2) July to November at Point St. George, and (3) May to November off Northern Washington. These areas were substantiated through long-term data obtained through vessel



surveys; passive acoustic monitoring; photo-identification; satellite-tagging studies; genetic data; opportunistic sightings from whale watching and fishing vessels; and expert judgment.

From May to November, humpback whales aggregate to feed on krill and small fish in an area off northern Washington and an area off Oregon over Stonewall Bank and Heceta Bank. Enhanced vertical and horizontal mixing associated with Heceta Bank results in higher prey densities, which improves foraging conditions for humpback whales and harbor porpoise (Tynan et al., 2005). Humpback whales and harbor porpoise aggregate in this area in the summer when prey concentrations are thought to be highest. From July to November, humpback whales feed in an area off Oregon and California at Point St. George, an area that has similar productive upwelling conditions as Heceta Bank.

Shipboard surveys in July 2005 found that humpback whale sightings were also concentrated around the edge of what appears to be the semi-permanent eddy associated with the outflow from the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Dalla-Rosa et al., 2012). The Juan de Fuca Eddy system is located off Cape Flattery and contains elevated macronutrients levels from spring to fall, derived primarily from upwelling of nutrient-rich deep waters from the California Undercurrent combined with lesser contributions from the Strait of Juan de Fuca outflow (MacFadyen et al., 2008). The full extent of the Juan de Fuca Eddy is not incorporated into the Northern Washington humpback whale biologically important feeding area because the development of biologically important areas was restricted to U.S. waters only. Therefore, the Northern Washington biologically important humpback whale feeding area extends northward to the boundary of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (Calambokidis et al., 2015; Ferguson et al., 2015a; Ferguson et al., 2015b). However, humpback whale aggregations feed across this political boundary in the nutrient rich waters throughout the Juan de Fuca Eddy. For this reason, the Navy is also recognizing the waters within the Juan de Fuca Eddy between the Northern Washington biologically important area and the northern boundary of the NWTT Offshore Area as a key area of importance for humpback whale feeding from May to November. This habitat is represented in Figure K-2 as the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Habitat.

Humpback whales that feed in these areas are thought to be from the Central North Pacific stock or California, Oregon, and Washington stock; and from the Hawaii Distinct Population Segment (which is not currently listed under the ESA), the Mexico Distinct Population Segment (which is ESA-listed as threatened), and the Central America Distinct Population Segment (which is ESA-listed as endangered). Photo-identification studies suggest that humpback whales feeding in the NWTT Offshore Area are part of a small sub-population that primarily feeds from central Washington to southern Vancouver Island (Calambokidis et al., 2004; Calambokidis et al., 2008).

In summary, humpback whales feed in habitats in the eastern North Pacific, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that foraging occurs primarily within the proposed critical habitat, the three identified biologically important areas, and at the Juan de Fuca Eddy; therefore, these habitat areas can be considered particularly important to humpback whales relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about humpback whales and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.4.1.13.3 (Distribution) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.2 Gray Whale**

Off the West Coast of the United States, gray whales migrate annually between winter breeding grounds off Mexico and summer feeding grounds from California to the Arctic from October through July (Calambokidis et al., 2015). Because gray whales have been studied so extensively, their migration

patterns and feeding habitats are relatively well-defined. As shown in Figure K-2, five areas that overlap the NWTT Offshore Area were identified as biologically important gray whale migration or feeding habitats by Calambokidis et al. (2015). From January to July, adult and juvenile gray whales migrate north predominately in waters from the shoreline out to 8 kilometers (km) (4.3 NM) from shore, which is referred to as the Northbound – Phase A migration. From March to July, cow-calf pairs migrate north predominately in waters from the shoreline out to 5 km (2.7 NM) from shore, which is referred to as the Northbound – Phase B migration. Gray whales are not known to migrate during August or September. From October to March, all age classes of gray whales migrate south predominately in waters from the shoreline out to 10 km (5.4 NM) from shore, which is referred to as the Southbound migration. Although most gray whales use migration habitat within 10 km, 8 km, and 5 km from shore during their various phases of migration, some whales have been observed migrating farther distances from shore. To account for this, a biologically important area for potential presence was developed for waters between the shoreline and 47 km (25.4 NM) from shore during the migration season from January to July and October to December. Gray whales migrating in these habitats are thought to be predominately from the Eastern North Pacific population (Carretta et al., 2017), which is not ESA-listed. Data from tagging, photo-identification, and genetic surveys also indicate a potential for migrating gray whales to be from the Western North Pacific population, which is listed under the ESA as endangered (Mate et al., 2015; Muir et al., 2016; Weller et al., 2013; Weller et al., 2002; Weller et al., 2012).

In addition to the migration areas, Calambokidis et al. (2015) identified a total of six areas as biologically important gray whale feeding habitats off the United States West Coast, one of which is located in the NWTT Offshore Area. From May to November, a gray whale aggregation feeds in an area off northwest Washington. Gray whales that feed in this area are thought to be from the Pacific Coast Feeding Group subpopulation of the Eastern North Pacific population (Calambokidis et al., 2015). Research conducted on gray whales in this area between June and November from 1984 to 2011 found that use of the feeding area in the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and northern portion of the habitat in coastal waters varies annually, but typically peaks in October and August, respectively (Scordino et al., 2017). The potential presence of migration and feeding areas were substantiated through long-term data obtained through vessel, aerial, and land-based surveys; photo-identification; genetic and tagging studies; opportunistic sightings from whale watching and fishing vessels; and expert judgment.

In summary, gray whales feed in and migrate through habitats throughout the North Pacific, Arctic, and along the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that feeding and migration occur primarily within the biologically important areas identified by Calambokidis et al. (2015); therefore, these habitat areas can be considered particularly important to gray whales relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about gray whales and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.4.1.14.3 (Distribution) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.3 Southern Resident Killer Whale**

Waters in the NWTT Offshore Area that extend out to 41 NM offshore are considered important Southern Resident killer whale feeding and migration habitat from December through June. This area was substantiated through tagging data, visual surveys, and acoustic data (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2014a). Southern Resident killer whales are listed under the ESA as endangered.

In the Pacific Northwest, Southern Resident killer whales have seasonal shifts in distribution from the Salish Sea and Puget Sound to locations as far north as Southeast Alaska and as far south as central

California (Cogan, 2015; Dahlheim et al., 2008; Ford et al., 2014; Hanson et al., 2018; Hanson et al., 2015; Houghton et al., 2015; National Marine Fisheries Service, 2016; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2011, 2014c; Olson et al., 2018; Rice et al., 2017). The seasonal timing of salmon returning to different river systems likely influences movements of Southern Resident killer whales. These large piscivorous mammals require a substantial amount of fish (300–400 lbs. per day) to sustain their metabolic requirements. During winter months, Southern Resident killer whale diet consists primarily of Chinook salmon (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2014a), but may contain other salmon and non-salmon species such as rockfish as well.

The use of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca by Southern Resident killer whales has declined in recent years as the species shifts its range to forage for Chinook salmon or other prey species elsewhere in response to prey availability (Shields et al., 2018). Hanson et al. (2013) assessed the winter and spring distribution (January–June) of Southern Resident killer whales by deploying passive acoustic recorders on the U.S. West Coast during 2006–2011. Detections were recorded for all months at the recorder off Westport, Washington, with a peak number of detections per month in March. Southern Resident killer whale detections were recorded for all months except June at the recorder off the Columbia River mouth, with similar detection rates from January through May. Overall, the findings suggest the potential importance of returning Columbia River spring Chinook salmon in the Southern Resident killer whale diet. Additional information about Southern Resident killer whale prey species is included in the fish sections below.

Southern Resident killer whales spend progressively less time in inland waters and more time off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California during the winter months (Black, 2011; Cogan, 2015; Hanson et al., 2017; National Marine Fisheries Service, 2016; Olson & Osborne, 2017). In the NWTT Offshore Area, data suggest that almost all (96.5 percent) locations of satellite-tagged Southern Resident killer whales were on the continental shelf within 34 km (19 NM) from shore at depths less than 200 m, and 78 percent were in waters less than 100 m (Hanson et al., 2017). Southern Resident killer whales may also occur out to 41 NM from shore but are expected to do so less regularly (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2014a). The distribution of satellite-tag locations confirms that Southern Resident killer whales generally inhabit nearshore waters and over multiple years have spent the highest amount of time near the mouth of the Columbia River and Westport, Washington (Hanson et al., 2018; Hanson et al., 2017; U.S. Department of the Navy, 2018a). Southern Resident killer whales were also acoustically detected by the monitoring hydrophones as far as 62 km (33 NM) off Cape Flattery (Hanson et al., 2018; U.S. Department of the Navy, 2018a) within the Juan de Fuca Eddy (Dalla-Rosa et al., 2012; MacFadyen et al., 2008), in the area represented in Figure K-2 as the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Habitat.

In 2019, NMFS published a proposal to expand Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat by including 15,627 square miles of marine waters along the U.S. West Coast between the 20 ft. depth contour and the 656 ft. depth contour, from the U.S. international border with Canada south to Point Sur, California (84 FR 49214). As shown in Figure K-2, the proposed expansion overlaps the NWTT Offshore Area and is intended to incorporate the seasonal shift in Southern Resident killer whale distribution (Cogan, 2015; Dahlheim et al., 2008; Ford et al., 2014; Hanson et al., 2015; Houghton et al., 2015; National Marine Fisheries Service, 2016; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2011, 2014c; Rice et al., 2017), including as far south as Monterey Bay and central California where K1 and L1 pods have been sighted in recent years (Carretta et al., 2018; Millman, 2019). Consistent with the 2006 designated critical habitat that overlaps NWTT Inland Waters (71 FR 69054), the offshore expansion

identified the primary essential features as: (1) water quality to support growth and development; (2) prey species of sufficient quantity, quality, and availability to support individual growth, reproduction, and development, as well as overall population growth; and (3) passage conditions to allow for migration, resting, and foraging.

In summary, Southern Resident killer whales feed in and migrate through habitats throughout nearshore coastal waters in the Pacific Northwest, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that foraging and migration occurs primarily within 41 NM from shore (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2014a) and within the proposed critical habitat; therefore, these habitat areas can be considered particularly important to Southern Resident killer whales relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about Southern Resident killer whales and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.4.1.16.3 (Distribution) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.4 Harbor Porpoise**

In the eastern North Pacific from Alaska south to Point Conception, California, harbor porpoise are found in nearshore coastal and inland waters, generally within a mile or two of shore (Barlow, 1988; Carretta et al., 2015; Carretta et al., 2017; Dahlheim et al., 2015; Dohl et al., 1983; Hamilton et al., 2009; Muto et al., 2017; Muto et al., 2018). Harbor porpoise are present in the NWTT Offshore Area year-round, and were the most frequently sighted marine mammal during aerial surveys conducted in waters off Washington, Oregon, and Northern California covering the approximate nearshore half of the NWTT Offshore Area in the spring, summer, and fall of 2011 and 2012 (Adams et al., 2014). Harbor porpoise occurrence and selection of foraging locations are driven in part by oceanographic influences, such as surface salinity and upwelling conditions.

One area in the NWTT Offshore Area, Heceta Bank, is known to be an important feeding area for harbor porpoise. The Navy identified this area through data on oceanographic modeling and line-transect surveys. Enhanced vertical and horizontal mixing associated with Heceta Bank results in higher prey densities, which improves foraging for humpback whales and harbor porpoise (Tynan et al., 2005). Humpback whales and harbor porpoise aggregate in this area in the summer, when prey concentrations are thought to be highest. For this reason, the Navy assumes that the extent of the foraging habitat and season (May through November) used by humpback whales at Heceta Bank also applies to harbor porpoise. This habitat is represented in Figure K-2 as the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale habitat.

In summary, harbor porpoise feed in habitats throughout the eastern North Pacific, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that Heceta Bank serves as an important foraging location for harbor porpoise relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about harbor porpoise and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.4.1.26.3 (Distribution) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.5 Bull Trout**

The Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of bull trout, which is listed as threatened under the ESA, encompasses all Pacific Coast drainages within the United States north of the Columbia River in Washington. This population is thought to contain the only anadromous form of bull trout in the United States. Anadromous bull trout in marine waters off Washington enter their natal streams in late spring and early summer, and overwinter in the Pacific Ocean or migrate through marine water to non-natal rain-fed streams, in part for feeding opportunities (Brenkman & Corbett, 2005; Goetz, 2016).

As shown in Figure K-3, one area within the NWTT Offshore Area has been designated by the USFWS as critical habitat for the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of bull trout. Along the United States West Coast, the critical habitat extends throughout several rivers and estuaries (75 FR 63898). Essential features for the critical habitat include foraging and migration habitats. There is minimal overlap of bull trout critical habitat within the NWTT Offshore Area. The overlap occurs within the Quinault Range Site over approximately 1 mile of nearshore area at Pacific Beach. As with other marine waters, bull trout may use these waters for foraging on smaller fish in the intertidal and subtidal zones of the photic zone, primarily in water less than 10 m deep (Goetz, 2016). The Navy recently sponsored a study conducted by NMFS scientists to characterize the distribution of ESA-listed salmonids, including bull trout, within and adjacent to the NWTT Study Area. From May through September 2019, of the 17 bull trout tagged, 16 were detected at the stationary acoustic receivers located in river locations, while a single individual was detected at a marine location 5.6 NM from shore (Huff et al., 2020).

In summary, the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of bull trout feeds in and migrates through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that migration and foraging occur primarily within the critical habitat designated by the USFWS; therefore, this habitat can be considered particularly important to bull trout relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about bull trout and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.6 (Bull Trout [*Salvelinus confluentus*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.6 Steelhead**

Eleven Distinct Population Segments of steelhead occur in the NWTT Offshore Area that are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. Critical habitat has not been designated in the NWTT Offshore Area for steelhead. Steelhead may move immediately offshore on entering the marine environment, rather than migrating north through coastal waters (Beamish et al. 2005). They are thought to feed in the high seas, with the largest catches seen at distances beyond 46 km (25 NM) offshore (Beamish et al. 2005; Quinn and Myers 2004). Similar to stream-type Chinook salmon, most juvenile and adult steelhead (with the exception of those in the southern Distinct Population Segments) migrate into open ocean areas beyond the continental shelf during the oceanic portion of their life cycle. However, it should be noted that unlike stream-type Chinook salmon, steelhead juveniles migrate west (not north) beyond the continental shelf almost immediately upon entering marine habitat (Daly et al., 2014). Adults from northern Distinct Population Segments tend to migrate off-shelf before returning to their natal waters. Thus, their migration over the shelf would be temporary and localized to specific areas.

Steelhead are thought to rely heavily on offshore marine waters for feeding, with high seas tagging programs indicating steelhead make more extensive migrations offshore in their first year than any other Pacific salmonids (Quinn & Myers, 2005). Commercial fisheries catch data indicate similar trends (Quinn & Myers, 2005). The species spends approximately 1 to 3 years in freshwater, then migrates rapidly through estuaries, bypassing the coastal migration routes of other salmonids, moving into oceanic offshore feeding grounds (Daly et al., 2014; Quinn & Myers, 2005). NMFS pelagic trawl survey data from off the coasts of Oregon and Washington showed that juvenile steelhead were consistently caught at the westernmost stations located 55 km (30 NM) from shore (depicted in Figure K-3), indicating a more offshore distribution for the species (Daly et al., 2014). Pearcy and Fisher (1990) found that catches of juvenile steelhead were generally highest at stations located more than 28 km (15 NM) from shore.

In summary, steelhead feed in and migrate through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that waters within 30 NM from shore are particularly important migration and feeding habitat for steelhead year-round relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about steelhead and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.5 (Steelhead [*Oncorhynchus mykiss*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.7 Chinook Salmon**

Nine Evolutionarily Significant Units of Chinook salmon that are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA occur in the NWTT Offshore Area. Critical habitat has not been designated in the NWTT Offshore Area for Chinook salmon. Most Chinook salmon exhibit an ocean-type life history, meaning they emigrate to the ocean as sub-yearling smolts. Chinook salmon that originate within or north of the Columbia River system tend to migrate north into waters off the coasts of Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. Nicholas and Hankin (1989) found that Chinook salmon from rivers south of Cape Blanco generally rear in the ocean off southern Oregon and northern California. In general, ocean-type fish (e.g., fall and summer-run Chinook) and spring-run Chinook that return to the lower Columbia River Basin tend to be primarily distributed on the continental shelf during their marine residence (Sharma, 2009). Most stream-type fish (e.g., most spring-run Chinook) are more common beyond the continental shelf, with most migrating far offshore in waters off British Columbia or Alaska after their first year of marine residence (Quinn & Myers, 2005; Sharma, 2009). These fish would only be present on the continental shelf for short periods when migrating between estuaries and open ocean areas beyond the shelf. As such, their migration over the continental shelf would be temporary and localized. Juvenile Chinook are generally found within 55 km (30 NM) of the Washington, Oregon, and California coast, with the vast majority found less than 28 km (15 NM) offshore (Fisher & Pearcy, 1995; Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2016; Pearcy & Fisher, 1990). Commercial fisheries catch data suggest that most maturing Chinook salmon off the West Coast are found within 60 km (32 NM) of the coastline, as depicted in Figure K-4 (Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2016).

In summary, Chinook salmon migrate through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that waters within 32 NM from shore are particularly important migration habitat for Chinook salmon year-round relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about Chinook salmon and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.1 (Chinook Salmon [*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.8 Coho Salmon**

Four Evolutionarily Significant Units of coho salmon occur in the NWTT Offshore Area that are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. Critical habitat has not been designated in the NWTT Offshore Area for coho salmon. Coho salmon are on a relatively fixed life cycle compared with other salmonids, spending approximately 18 months in freshwater and another 18 months in the ocean. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, most adult coho salmon migrate north from their respective freshwater habitats ((Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2000)). The three most northern coho salmon Evolutionarily Significant Units may migrate as far north as Alaska. The degree to which juveniles migrate offshore depends on the strength of upwelling, with strong upwelling years leading to wider dispersal, farther from shore (Percy, 1993). However, juveniles and adults tend to be distributed over the continental shelf. Although coho salmon may be found further offshore than Chinook salmon, juvenile and maturing coho salmon are most abundant within 60 km (32 NM) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, as depicted in Figure

K-4 (Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2016). The majority of juveniles are found within 37 km (20 NM) of the coast (Pearcy, 1993; Percy & Fisher, 1990).

In summary, coho salmon migrate through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that waters within 32 NM from shore are particularly important migration habitat for coho salmon year-round relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about coho salmon and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.2 (Coho Salmon [*Oncorhynchus kisutch*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.9 Chum Salmon**

Two Evolutionarily Significant Units of chum salmon occur in the NWTT Offshore Area that are listed as threatened under the ESA. Critical habitat has not been designated in the NWTT Offshore Area for chum salmon. Chum generally move north and west along the coast upon entering saltwater, and move offshore (off-shelf) by the end of their first ocean year (Byron & Burke, 2014; Quinn, 2005). However, like Chinook and coho salmon, chum salmon tend to return over the continental shelf when returning home to their natal streams. Percy and Fisher (1990) observed the highest catch per unit effort of juvenile chum salmon inshore of 37 km (20 NM), though some were caught over 55 km (30 NM) offshore. Hartt and Dell (1986) observed that the vast majority of juvenile chum from Washington state migrate northward within a narrow coastal belt less than 20 NM, as depicted in Figure K-4. Percy and Fisher (1990) noted that juvenile chum salmon were less abundant than either coho or Chinook salmon off the Oregon and Washington coast. Neave et al. (1976) indicated that catches of chum salmon off the coast of the continental United States in proximity to the NWTT Offshore Area were lower than areas further to the north and further offshore (e.g., the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea, and areas far offshore in the North Pacific).

In summary, chum salmon migrate through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that waters within 20 NM from shore are particularly important migration habitat for chum salmon year-round relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about chum salmon and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.3 (Chum Salmon [*Oncorhynchus keta*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.10 Sockeye Salmon**

Two Evolutionarily Significant Units of sockeye salmon occur in the NWTT Offshore Area that are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. Critical habitat has not been designated in the NWTT Offshore Area for sockeye salmon. Juvenile sockeye salmon exit the Ozette River and undertake a rapid northward coastal migration toward Alaska in a narrow band along the coast (Tucker et al., 2015). Similarly, juvenile Snake River sockeye salmon exit the Columbia River plume and undertake a rapid northward coastal migration along the continental shelf. In general, it is thought that sockeye follow a similar migration pattern as chum once they enter the ocean, moving north and west along the coast, and offshore by the end of their first ocean year (Byron & Burke, 2014; Quinn, 2005). However, sockeye salmon tend to return over the continental shelf when returning home to their natal streams. Percy and Fisher (1990) observed the highest catch per unit effort of juvenile sockeye salmon inshore of 37 km (20 NM), as depicted in Figure K-4, though some were caught over 55 km (30 NM) offshore. They noted that, similar to juvenile chum salmon, juvenile sockeye salmon were less abundant than either coho or Chinook salmon off the Oregon and Washington coast.

In summary, sockeye salmon migrate through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that waters within 20 NM from shore are particularly important migration habitat for sockeye salmon year-round relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about sockeye salmon and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.4 (Sockeye Salmon [*Oncorhynchus nerka*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.11 Green Sturgeon**

The primary concentration of green sturgeon is located in the coastal waters of Washington, Oregon, and Vancouver Island, and near San Francisco and Monterey Bay (Huff et al., 2012). The NWTT Offshore Area overlaps with the marine distribution of green sturgeon, and corresponding species life history events in this area include subadult and adult growth and maturation, migration between estuarine and marine areas, and spawning migration. In marine waters, green sturgeon prefer areas with high seafloor complexity and boulder presence at depths of 20–60 m (Huff et al., 2011). They forage in coastal waters on benthic prey species.

As shown in Figure K-4, one area within the NWTT Offshore Area has been designated by NMFS as critical habitat for the Southern Distinct Population Segment of green sturgeon, which is listed as threatened under the ESA. Along the United States West Coast, the critical habitat extends throughout several rivers and estuaries. Essential features for the critical habitat include foraging and migration habitats (74 FR 52300). The Southern Distinct Population Segment of green sturgeon disperse from their natal rivers and migrate northward along the continental shelf as adults. The months when green sturgeon is expected to be present in the NWTT Offshore Area are October through June.

In summary, the Southern Distinct Population Segment of green sturgeon feeds in and migrates through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that migration and foraging occur primarily within the critical habitat designated by NMFS (primarily at depths of 20–60 m); therefore, this habitat can be considered particularly important to green sturgeon relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about green sturgeon and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.3.2 (Green Sturgeon [*Acipenser medirostris*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.12 Leatherback Sea Turtle**

Leatherback sea turtles are globally distributed throughout oceans of the world. In the northern Pacific Ocean, they forage widely in temperate waters (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2015). Population modeling conducted by Gaspar and Lalire (2017) compare Pacific juvenile leatherback predicted distributions with passive dispersion (juvenile turtles drifting or following currents) and active dispersion, where juvenile turtles respond to habitat cues (e.g., water temperature) and actively swim to foraging grounds often counter to prevailing currents. Leatherback sea turtles occur throughout the year in the coastal and offshore waters of the northwestern United States. Telemetry studies have shown areas of concentration along the central California coast and in the waters of Oregon and Washington (Benson et al., 2011). Aerial surveys off Washington, Oregon, and California indicate that most leatherbacks occur in waters over the continental slope, with a few over the continental shelf (Eckert, 1993).

As shown in Figure K-5, one area that overlaps the NWTT Offshore Area has been designated by NMFS as critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles, which are listed as endangered under the ESA. The critical habitat extends along the Washington and Oregon coastlines from Cape Flattery to Cape Blanco. The essential feature for this critical habitat is the occurrence of important jellyfish prey species (77 FR



4169). Leatherback sea turtles are most likely to occur along the coasts of Washington and Oregon during the summer and early fall when water temperatures are warmer and when aggregations of jellyfish form (Benson et al., 2007; Green et al., 1992). The waters off the Oregon and California coasts have been repeatedly recognized as one of the most important leatherback foraging areas in the Pacific Ocean (National Marine Fisheries Service & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1998). Leatherbacks forage on jellyfish in this area year-round.

In summary, leatherback sea turtles feed throughout the northern Pacific Ocean and along the United States West Coast, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that foraging occurs primarily within the critical habitat designated by NMFS; therefore, this habitat can be considered particularly important to leatherback sea turtles relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about leatherback sea turtles and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.5.1.4.2 (Habitat and Geographic Range) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.2.1.13 Marbled Murrelet**

The marbled murrelet is listed as threatened under the ESA in Washington, Oregon, and California (57 FR 45328). Critical habitat has not been designated in the marine environment for marbled murrelets, but does occur in the terrestrial mature and old growth forests within 48 km of the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1997) recovery plan established six marbled murrelet conservation zones that extend 2 km (1.1 NM) seaward from shore to assist the design of management actions and evaluation of impacts. Waters in the NWTT Offshore Area that extend from the Washington shoreline out to 1.1 NM from shore overlap a portion of marbled murrelet Conservation Zone 2. Marbled murrelet Conservation Zones 3, 4, 5, and 6 are located outside of or adjacent to the Study Area, however, individual marbled murrelets from these zones could occur in Conservation Area 2 due to the transient nature of this species. For information on Conservation Zone 1, which overlaps a portion of NWTT Inland Waters, see Section K.3.3.1.8 (Marbled Murrelet).

Marbled murrelets occur year-round in marine waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. In the summer breeding season, the marine distribution of marbled murrelets is primarily within 5 km (2.7 NM) from the coasts, as depicted in Figure K-5 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2016). Due to energetic costs associated with transiting from foraging areas to suitable inland nesting habitat, selection of foraging locations is primarily driven by availability of summer prey species (e.g., sand lance, smelt, herring, other small schooling fish) in nearshore locations close to nesting sites (Ralph & Miller, 1995). In the winter non-breeding season, marbled murrelets are thought to disperse farther offshore, although the highest concentrations still occur close to shore and in protected waters (Nelson, 1997). Occurrence of marbled murrelets is primarily driven by local oceanographic conditions that affect availability of winter prey species (e.g., krill and amphipods), such as sea surface temperature, upwellings, and currents (Piatt et al., 2007). Marbled murrelets were observed 60 km (32 NM) off the coast of Northern California in October 2011 and 46 km (25 NM) off the coast of Oregon in February 2012 (Adams et al., 2014). Sightings of marbled murrelets beyond these distances have rarely occurred.

In summary, marbled murrelets feed in and migrate through (e.g., transit from foraging areas to inland nesting habitat) marine waters of Washington, Oregon, and California, both within and outside of the NWTT Offshore Area. Within the NWTT Offshore Area, the best available science indicates that waters within 5 km (2.7 NM) from shore (i.e., within the NWTT Offshore Area portion of the Study Area that abuts the Washington coast) are particularly important feeding and migration habitat for marbled murrelets year-round relative to other locations in the NWTT Offshore Area. For additional information about

marbled murrelets and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.6.1.7 (Marbled Murrelet [*Brachyramphus marmoratus*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

### **K.3.2.2 Mitigation Area Assessment**

#### **K.3.2.2.1 Biological Effectiveness**

As shown in Figure K-2, Figure K-3, Figure K-4, and Figure K-5, each habitat considered in the NWTT Offshore Area either partially overlaps or is fully contained within one or more mitigation areas. To demonstrate the level of overlap, Table K-3 identifies the percent of each habitat considered that is contained within each mitigation area in the NWTT Offshore Area. These percentages factor in only the portions of each habitat located inside the Study Area. A qualitative discussion of the biological effectiveness of mitigation areas in the NWTT Offshore Area is provided in the sections below.

##### **K.3.2.2.1.1 Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area**

The Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area includes three subareas based on distance from shore (50 NM, 20 NM, and 12 NM) within the NWTT Offshore Area portion of the Study Area. The Navy established the boundaries of these subareas to encompass the maximum area of key marine mammal, ESA-listed fish, sea turtle, and marbled murrelet habitats within which implementing mitigation is practical when balanced against impacts to safety, sustainability, and the ability to continue meeting mission requirements, as described in Section K.3.2.2.2 (Operational Assessment).

The 50 NM from shore portion of the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area overlaps every important feeding, migration, or critical habitat described in Section K.3.2.1 (Resource Description) for humpback whales, gray whales, Southern Resident killer whales, harbor porpoise, bull trout, steelhead, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, green sturgeon, leatherback sea turtles, and marbled murrelets. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Quinault, Grays, Guide, Willapa, Astoria, and Eel canyons are also located within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. Mitigation within 50 NM from shore will result in an avoidance of potential impacts on marine mammals, ESA-listed fish, sea turtles, and marbled murrelets within their important habitat areas from all explosive training activities, all explosive testing activities except explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities, and non-explosive missile training exercises. The mitigation requirements will also consequently help the Navy avoid potential impacts from active sonar used in conjunction with applicable explosive events that are required to be conducted greater than 50 NM from shore, such as mid-frequency and high-frequency active sonar used during explosive torpedo events (e.g., MF1 and MF4 sonar during Torpedo [Explosive] Testing). The Navy will issue annual seasonal awareness notification messages to further help avoid potential impacts from vessel strikes and training and testing activities on humpback whales, gray whales, and Southern Resident killer whales in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area. The awareness notification messages will coincide with the seasons in which humpback whales, gray whales, and Southern Resident killer whales are most likely to be observed in concentrations in the mitigation area. Southern Resident killer whales are most likely to be observed in the NWTT Offshore Area in winter and spring (December 1 to June 30), which correlates with prey availability. Gray whales and humpback whales are most likely to be observed in the NWTT Offshore from late spring through fall (May 1 to November 30 and May 1 through December 31, respectively), which correlates to feeding or migration seasons.

**Table K-3: Percent of Habitat Considered Contained Within Mitigation Areas in the NWTT Offshore Area**

| <i>Habitat Considered</i>                            | <i>50 NM from Shore in Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area</i> | <i>20 NM from Shore in Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area</i> | <i>12 NM from Shore in Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area</i> | <i>Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area</i> | <i>Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area</i> | <i>Combined Mitigation Areas: 20 NM from Shore, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Juan de Fuca Eddy</i> | <i>Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area</i> | <i>Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Humpback Whale Northern Washington Feeding BIA       | 100%                                                              | 55%                                                               | 24%                                                               | 90%                                                            | -                                                       | 90%                                                                                                            | -                                                               | -                                                      |
| Humpback Whale Stonewall and Heceta Bank Feeding BIA | 100%                                                              | 37%                                                               | -                                                                 | -                                                              | -                                                       | 37%                                                                                                            | 100%                                                            | -                                                      |
| Humpback Whale Point St. George Feeding BIA          | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | -                                                                 | -                                                              | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | -                                                               | 100%                                                   |
| Humpback Whale Proposed CH                           | 98%                                                               | 36%                                                               | 3%                                                                | 9%                                                             | -                                                       | 39%                                                                                                            | <1%                                                             | <1%                                                    |
| Gray Whale Northwest Washington Feeding BIA          | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                           | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | -                                                               | -                                                      |
| Gray Whale Northbound – Phase A Migration BIA        | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 96%                                                            | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | -                                                               | -                                                      |
| Gray Whale Northbound – Phase B Migration BIA        | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 96%                                                            | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | -                                                               | -                                                      |
| Gray Whale Southbound – All Migration BIA            | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 96%                                                            | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | -                                                               | -                                                      |
| Gray Whale Potential Presence Migration BIA          | 100%                                                              | 73%                                                               | 16%                                                               | 27%                                                            | -                                                       | 76%                                                                                                            | 5%                                                              | <1%                                                    |
| SRKW Proposed CH                                     | 100%                                                              | 72%                                                               | 26%                                                               | 45%                                                            | -                                                       | 79%                                                                                                            | 11%                                                             | <1%                                                    |
| Juan de Fuca Eddy                                    | 84%                                                               | 5%                                                                | -                                                                 | -                                                              | 100%                                                    | 100%                                                                                                           | -                                                               | -                                                      |
| Bull Trout CH                                        | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                           | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | -                                                               | -                                                      |
| Steelhead Habitat                                    | 100%                                                              | 52%                                                               | 11%                                                               | 21%                                                            | -                                                       | 57%                                                                                                            | 4%                                                              | <1%                                                    |
| Chinook Salmon Habitat                               | 100%                                                              | 47%                                                               | 10%                                                               | 19%                                                            | -                                                       | 52%                                                                                                            | 4%                                                              | <1%                                                    |
| Coho Salmon Habitat                                  | 100%                                                              | 47%                                                               | 10%                                                               | 19%                                                            | -                                                       | 52%                                                                                                            | 4%                                                              | <1%                                                    |
| Chum Salmon Habitat                                  | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 22%                                                               | 34%                                                            | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | 4%                                                              | 1%                                                     |
| Sockeye Salmon Habitat                               | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 22%                                                               | 34%                                                            | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | 4%                                                              | 1%                                                     |
| Green Sturgeon CH                                    | 100%                                                              | 91%                                                               | 53%                                                               | 59%                                                            | -                                                       | 91%                                                                                                            | 17%                                                             | -                                                      |
| Leatherback Sea Turtle CH                            | 85%                                                               | 26%                                                               | 8%                                                                | 15%                                                            | -                                                       | 29%                                                                                                            | 4%                                                              | -                                                      |
| Marbled Murrelet Habitat                             | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 100%                                                              | 99%                                                            | -                                                       | 100%                                                                                                           | -                                                               | -                                                      |

Notes: CH = Critical Habitat; BIA = Biologically Important Area; SRKW = Southern Resident killer whale

The 20 NM from shore portion of the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area overlaps important feeding, migration, or critical habitat described in Section K.3.2.1 (Resource Description) for gray whales, humpback whales, Southern Resident killer whales, leatherback sea turtles, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, bull trout, and marbled murrelets. The mitigation area also overlaps a significant portion of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and Astoria and Eel canyons. Mitigation requirements within 20 NM from shore will result in an avoidance or reduction of potential impacts from surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar, non-explosive large-caliber gunnery training, and non-explosive bombing training on marine species within these habitats.

With regard to explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing, mitigation to limit the number of explosives used over a 7-year period is designed primarily to reduce potential impacts of ESA-listed fish and marbled murrelets over the duration of the Proposed Action. This mitigation would reduce the maximum potential exposure to explosives in bin E4 and bin E7 by approximately 40 percent in the months and locations where the following ESA-listed fish and bird species are expected to be present in the NWTT Offshore Area: green sturgeon Southern Distinct Population Segment, Chinook salmon Upper Columbia River Spring-Run Evolutionarily Significant Unit, Chinook salmon Central Valley Spring-Run Evolutionarily Significant Unit, coho salmon Oregon Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit, coho salmon Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit, chum salmon Columbia River Evolutionarily Significant Unit, steelhead Upper Willamette River Distinct Population Segment, steelhead Central California Coast Distinct Population Segment, bull trout Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment, and marbled murrelet.

Similarly, mitigation to conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing from July 1 through September 30 to the maximum extent practical when operating within 20 NM from shore and to conduct a maximum of one explosive event from October 1 through June 30 within 20 NM from shore is designed primarily to avoid or reduce potential impacts on ESA-listed fish species based on their typical occurrence seasonally and at certain water depths, as summarized below. The mitigation will also benefit foraging or migrating humpback whales, migrating gray whales, foraging or transiting Southern Resident killer whales, and foraging marbled murrelets. For reference, within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, water depths range from 92 to 106 m in the Quinault Range Site (outside of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary), and from 53 to 2,558 m elsewhere in the NWTT Offshore Area.

- Bull Trout Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment: Predicted occurrence is May–September. Average life history depth for adults and juveniles is less than 10 m.
- Steelhead Upper Willamette River Distinct Population Segment: Predicted adult occurrence is February–May, and predicted juvenile occurrence is April–June. Average life history depth for adults and juveniles is less than 10 m.
- Steelhead Central California Coast Distinct Population Segment: Predicted adult occurrence is October–April, and predicted juvenile occurrence is November–June. Average life history depth for adults and juveniles is less than 10 m.
- Chinook Salmon Upper Columbia River Spring-Run Evolutionarily Significant Unit: Predicted adult occurrence is March–May, and predicted juvenile occurrence is April–June. Average life history depth for adults is typically 29 m and occasionally 110 m. Average life history depth for juveniles is 10–30 m in summer through fall.
- Chinook Salmon Snake River Spring/Summer-Run Evolutionarily Significant Unit: Predicted adult occurrence is March–July, and predicted juvenile occurrence is April–June. Average life history

depth for adults is typically 29 m and occasionally 110 m. Average life history depth for juveniles is 10–30 m in summer through fall.

- Chinook Salmon Central Valley Spring-Run Evolutionarily Significant Unit: Predicted adult occurrence is March–July, and predicted juvenile occurrence is December–March. Average life history depth for adults is typically 29 m and occasionally 110 m. Average life history depth for juveniles is 10–30 m in summer through fall.
- Coho Salmon Oregon Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit: Predicted adult occurrence is October–December, and predicted juvenile occurrence is March–July. Average life history depth for adults is typically 10–30 m and occasionally 74 m. Average life history depth for juveniles is less than 30 m.
- Coho Salmon Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit: Predicted adult occurrence is September–October, and predicted juvenile occurrence is March–June. Average life history depth for adults is typically 10–30 m and occasionally 74 m. Average life history depth for juveniles is less than 30 m.
- Chum Salmon Columbia River Evolutionarily Significant Unit: Predicted adult occurrence is October–November, and predicted juvenile occurrence is March–May. Average life history depth for adults is typically less than 10 m and rarely up to 40 m. Average life history depth for juveniles is typically less than 15 m.

The 12 NM from shore portion of the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area overlaps important feeding, migration, or critical habitats described in Section K.3.2.1 (Resource Description) for gray whales, humpback whales, Southern Resident killer whales, leatherback sea turtles, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, bull trout, and marbled murrelets. The 12 NM from shore portion of the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area also overlaps a portion of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and marine protected areas, including the Flattery Rocks National Wildlife Refuge, Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuge, and Copalis National Wildlife Refuge. These marine protected areas are located in the nearshore portion of the Study Area that abuts the Washington shoreline, well within 12 NM from shore. Additional information on marine protected areas is presented in Section 6.1.2 (Marine Protected Areas) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Mitigation requirements within 12 NM from shore will result in an avoidance or reduction of potential impacts from non-explosive small- and medium-caliber gunnery training, non-explosive torpedo training (which involves mid-frequency and high-frequency active sonar), and Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Helicopter, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Ship, or Submarine training activities (which involve mid-frequency active sonar [including surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar and MF4 dipping sonar] and high-frequency active sonar). Mitigation to conduct a maximum of one Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training event within 12 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site, and to cancel or move Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events if Southern Resident killer whales are detected within 12 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site, is expected to help the Navy avoid any potential impacts on Southern Resident killer whales during Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events. Mitigation during explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing to not use explosives in bin E7 closer than 6 NM from shore in the Quinault Range Site is primarily designed to avoid overlap of the larger of the explosive bins used in this activity with marbled murrelets and ESA-listed fish species. The Navy's combined mitigation within the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area will result in all live fire training activities being conducted at least 12 NM from shore, with many activities conducted beyond 20 NM or 50 NM from shore, as described previously.

#### **K.3.2.2.1.2 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area**

Mitigation within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area is designed to avoid or reduce potential impacts from surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar, explosives during Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities, and non-explosive practice munitions during non-explosive bombing training in important feeding or migration habitat for gray whales, humpback whales, Southern Resident killer whales, leatherback sea turtles, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, bull trout, marbled murrelet, and other sanctuary resources.

Mitigation within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area may result in an avoidance or reduction of potential impacts to a wide assemblage of other resources that inhabit, forage in, and migrate through the sanctuary, such as additional species of marine mammals, invertebrates, birds, and fishes. As detailed in Section 6.1.2.1 (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary) of the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary consists of an area of 2,408 square NM of marine waters and the submerged lands off the Olympic Peninsula Coastline of Washington. The sanctuary extends approximately 38 NM seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and the Quinault Canyon. Due to the Juan de Fuca Eddy ecosystem created from localized currents at the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the diversity of bottom habitats, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary supports a variety of marine life. Habitats within the sanctuary include kelp forest, surfgrass, seafloor (sand and silt, gravel and cobbles), deep-sea coral and sponge gardens, rocky reefs, intertidal zone, nearshore subtidal, deep-water benthic, and water column habitat. The diversity of habitats, and the nutrient-rich upwelling zone (which exhibits the greatest volume of upwelling in North America) that drives high primary productivity in this province, contribute to the high species diversity in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, with 309 species of fish, more than 56 species of seabirds and 24 species of shorebirds, occurring in the sanctuary (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 2008). The sanctuary is thought to provide important foraging and migration habitat for 29 species of marine mammals, including toothed and baleen whales, seals and sea lions, and sea otters (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 2008).

Mitigation within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area will also help the Navy avoid or reduce potential impacts on other marine protected areas in the NWTT Offshore Area. The Flattery Rocks National Wildlife Refuge, Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuge, and Copalis National Wildlife Refuge are located within the boundaries of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in the nearshore portion of the Study Area that abuts the Washington shoreline (well within 12 NM from shore). Additional information on marine protected areas is presented in Section 6.1.2 (Marine Protected Areas) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Because the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area is located entirely within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Navy's combined mitigation will ensure that marine resources, including marine mammals, ESA-listed fish, sea turtles, and marbled murrelets, are not exposed to explosives in the sanctuary from any training or testing activity under the Proposed Action. Furthermore, additive mitigation within 20 NM and 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area will help the Navy further avoid or reduce potential impacts from active sonar and non-explosive practice munitions on sanctuary resources.

#### **K.3.2.2.1.3 Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area**

Mitigation within the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area is primarily designed to avoid or reduce potential impacts from surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar and explosives during Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities on Southern Resident killer whales and humpback whales within important feeding and migration habitats. Waters within the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area (including areas off Cape Flattery) are important foraging habitat for aggregations of humpback whales and migration habitat for Southern Resident killer whales as they transit between Inland Waters and the Offshore Area, as described in Section K.3.2.1.1 (Humpback Whale) and K.3.2.1.3 (Southern Resident Killer Whale). The mitigation area is also potentially used by migrating gray whales, as well as other species of marine mammals, including sperm whales. Sperm whale concentrations typically correlate with areas of high productivity near drop-offs and areas with strong currents and steep topography (Gannier & Praca, 2007; Jefferson et al., 2015), such as the conditions present seasonally in the Juan de Fuca Eddy (MacFadyen et al., 2008). The mitigation area's nutrient-rich waters and seasonal upwelling provide an abundance of marine mammal prey species and favorable foraging conditions for concentrations of marine mammals. The mitigation will also help avoid or reduce potential impacts on leatherback sea turtles, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, and steelhead. Additionally, the mitigation would result in the Navy avoiding any overlap between explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities with the ESA-listed Ozette Lake Evolutionarily Significant Unit of sockeye salmon.

The Navy assessed the potential biological effectiveness of developing additional mitigation in this mitigation area. However, the Navy does not generally schedule other training and testing activities in this portion of the Study Area due to the high volume of commercial vessel traffic. As described in Section K.3.2.2.2 (Operational Assessment), when scheduling activities, the Navy considers the need to minimize sea space and airspace conflicts between its own activities and with consideration for public safety. Because it is unlikely that other Navy training and testing would take place in this area, the Navy determined that further mitigation would not effectively avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine species due to the extremely low potential for impacts to occur.

#### **K.3.2.2.1.4 Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area**

Mitigation in the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area is primarily designed to avoid or reduce potential impacts from surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar and explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities on humpback whales in an important seasonal feeding area. The mitigation will also help avoid or reduce potential impacts on harbor porpoises, which are also known to congregate for feeding in this location. Humpback whales and harbor porpoise aggregate over Heceta Bank in the summer, when prey concentrations are thought to be highest.

In addition to containing humpback whale and harbor porpoise feeding habitat, the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area overlaps important habitats for several other species, including gray whale potential presence of migration, Southern Resident killer whale feeding and migration and critical habitat, leatherback sea turtle and green sturgeon critical habitat, and Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, and sockeye salmon migration habitat. Beyond these species, other species of marine mammals have been observed in the vicinity of Heceta Bank. The enhanced vertical and horizontal mixing associated with Heceta Bank that results in higher prey densities and improved foraging conditions for humpback whales and harbor porpoise may also serve to influence the presence of other marine mammal species in this area (Tynan et al., 2005). For example, sperm whales, Baird's

beaked whale, Cuvier's beaked whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins, northern right whale dolphins, Risso's dolphins, and Dall's porpoise have been observed at Heceta Bank in spring or summer during past surveys (Tynan et al., 2005). Sperm whales have been observed at Heceta Bank during spring and summer, possibly indicating a correlation between the abundance of prey species, such as large cephalopods (e.g., squid) and fish (Tynan et al., 2005). Therefore, while it is known that mitigation within the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area will help avoid or reduce potential impacts within important humpback whale and harbor porpoise foraging habitat, it is likely that the mitigation will also benefit additional species, including numerous species of marine mammals, who may feed in or migrate through this area.

Because the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area is located entirely within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Navy's combined mitigation will ensure that marine species are not exposed to explosives in the mitigation area from any training or testing activity under the Proposed Action. Furthermore, additive mitigation within the portion of the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area located within 20 NM from shore will help the Navy further avoid or reduce potential impacts from additional sources of active sonar, as well as non-explosive practice munitions.

#### **K.3.2.2.1.5 Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area**

Mitigation in the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area is primarily designed to avoid or reduce potential impacts from mid-frequency active sonar and explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities on humpback whales in an important seasonal feeding area. In addition to containing humpback whale feeding habitat, the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area overlaps important habitats for several other species, including gray whale potential presence of migration, Southern Resident killer whale feeding and migration, leatherback sea turtle critical habitat, and Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, and sockeye salmon migration.

Because the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area is located entirely within 50 NM and 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Navy's combined mitigation will ensure that marine species are not exposed to explosives in the mitigation area from any training or testing activity under the Proposed Action, and potential impacts from additional sources of active sonar, as well as non-explosive practice munitions will be avoided or reduced.

#### **K.3.2.2.2 Operational Assessment**

The Navy conducts training and testing activities in the NWTT Offshore Area because this portion of the Study Area provides valuable access to sea space and airspace conditions analogous to areas where the Navy operates or may need to operate in the future. In particular, the unique and complex bathymetric and oceanographic environment in the NWTT Offshore Area (e.g., the presence of numerous submarine canyons) presents a challenging anti-submarine warfare training opportunity. The Navy selects training locations in the NWTT Offshore Area to allow for the realistic tactical development of the myriad training scenarios Navy units are required to complete to be mission effective. Certain activities require large areas of the littorals or open ocean for realistic and safe training. Other activities may be conducted on a smaller and more localized scale, with training or testing at discrete locations that are critical to certain aspects of military readiness. The Navy chooses training locations based on proximity to training ranges (e.g., W-237), available airspace (e.g., Olympic MOA; avoiding airspace conflicts with major airports such as Seattle-Tacoma International Airport), unobstructed sea space, and aircraft emergency landing fields (e.g., Naval Air Station Whidbey Island).



Testing locations are typically located near systems command support facilities, which provide critical safety, platform, and infrastructure support and technical expertise necessary to conduct testing (e.g., proximity to air squadrons). The testing community is required to install and test systems on platforms in proximity to where those platforms are stationed. The Navy conducts testing activities in the NWTT Offshore Area because it provides a variety of bathymetric and environmental conditions necessary to ensure functionality and accuracy of systems and platforms in areas analogous to where the military operates. The Navy has used the same non-explosive torpedo testing areas in the NWTT Offshore Area for decades because these areas provide critical bathymetric features and consistency for comparative data collection.

The Quinault Range Site is an active range integral to the Navy's national defense mission. The Quinault Range Site has been used continuously in the research, development, testing, and evaluation of Navy systems (e.g., ships and warfare technology) for more than four decades. The Quinault Range Site provides unique opportunities for the Navy to conduct both training and testing, including acoustic and oceanographic research to observe systems with different acoustic parameters (e.g., frequency, directionality, signal) under a variety of environmental conditions (e.g., wind, waves, pre- and post-storms). The Navy conducts training and testing activities at the Quinault Range Site that cannot effectively or efficiently be conducted elsewhere in the Study Area or in other areas where the Navy trains and tests. The Navy established the Quinault Range Site due to its range of environmental conditions and proximity to the Navy's port and laboratory facilities in Puget Sound. The Quinault Range Site has ideal water depths, seafloor types, and an abundance of three-dimensional bathymetric phenomena (e.g., Quinault Canyon) that are of particular interest for important research on shallow-water acoustic propagation and other ocean acoustics research, as well as optimal conditions for various testing events, such as active sonar Countermeasure Testing and explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing.

Training and testing schedules are based on national tasking, the number and duration of training cycles identified in the Optimized Fleet Response Plan and various training plans, forecasting of future testing requirements, and emerging requirements. When scheduling activities, the Navy also considers the need to minimize sea space and airspace conflicts throughout the NWTT Offshore Area. The Navy schedules training and testing to minimize conflicts between its own activities and with consideration for public safety (e.g., safe distances from commercial vessel traffic). Daily fluctuations in training and testing schedules and objectives could mean that, on any given day, vessels or aircraft may depend on discrete locations of the NWTT Offshore Area for discrete purposes. The Navy requires flexibility in the timing of its use of active sonar and explosives in order to meet individual training and testing schedules and deployment schedules. For example, the schedules of explosive missile training exercises are driven by deployment requirements and national command authority assignments. Navy vessels, aviation squadrons, and testing programs have a limited amount of time available for training and testing. The Navy must factor in variables such as maintenance and weather when scheduling event locations and timing. Some active sonar activities in the NWTT Offshore Area, such as the use of dipping sonar, is conducted by transient naval units that are not stationed in the Pacific Northwest. Therefore, the Navy must maintain flexibility in the season, location, and time of day in which these activities are conducted. The schedules for testing events require flexibility because the testing community oftentimes has a need for rapid development to quickly resolve tactical deficiencies. Overall, training and testing schedules can be cyclical and are partially driven by geo-political situations, which precludes the Navy from implementing additional seasonal restrictions on the use of active sonar (including hull-mounted

mid-frequency active sonar and dipping sonar) and explosives (including explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing) in the NWTT Offshore Area.

Explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing is required under the Proposed Action to ensure systems can effectively neutralize threat mines that will otherwise restrict passage through an area, and to ensure U.S. Navy mines remain effective against enemy ships. Explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities do not have a nighttime testing requirement; therefore, this activity is scheduled to be conducted in daylight hours and it is unlikely that events would extend past sunset. The Navy will implement mitigation to not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area, Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area, Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area, and Seafloor Resource Mitigation Areas within a 350 yd. radius of live hard bottom, artificial reefs, and shipwrecks. As detailed in Section 5.3.3.6 (Explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Activities), the Navy will use the smallest practical explosive charge size for each activity; therefore, it would not be practical to implement additional charge size restrictions for this activity without impacting the Navy's ability to meet testing program requirements.

The Navy will conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing from July 1 through September 30 to the maximum extent practical when operating within 20 NM from shore. From a logistics perspective, factors that could potentially make implementing this measure impractical include but are not limited to platform availability, range availability, and sea state. During the MMPA and ESA consultation processes, the Navy identified several additional practical and effective geographic mitigation measures for this activity, including restricting explosives within the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, conducting a maximum of one explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing event from October 1 through June 30 within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area (not to exceed the use of 20 explosives from bin E4 and 3 explosives from bin E7 annually, and not to exceed the use of 60 explosives from bin E4 and 9 explosives from bin E7 over 7 years), and not using explosives in bin E7 closer than 6 NM from shore in the Quinault Range Site. Further, as described in Section 5.3.3.6 (Explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Activities), the Navy has committed to conducting activities in daylight in Beaufort Sea state number 3 conditions or less as part of its procedural mitigation for this event.

Operational parameters require explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing events to occur in certain bottom types, sea states, weather conditions, and water conditions (e.g., water clarity), and within a specific range of water depths (e.g., shallower than 1,000 ft. and typically 300 ft.). Some of these parameters could potentially prevent the Navy from conducting explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing during portions of the winter (e.g., December through April) when weather conditions are oftentimes unfavorable (e.g., Beaufort Sea state of 4 or above) in the NWTT Offshore Area; however, average sea states in any given month can fluctuate from year to year. In addition to weather considerations, scheduling for this event is also dependent on the availability of transient personnel and testing program platforms that are not stationed in the Pacific Northwest. As a result, it would be impractical for the Navy to definitively require all explosive events to be conducted within a three-month summer window to align with time periods of lower predicted marine species presence. Although explosive events will be conducted from July through September to the maximum extent practical, the Navy must maintain the flexibility to potentially be able to conduct one explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing event year-round within 20 NM from shore, in case it is not practical (e.g., logistically feasible) to conduct both events during the three-month summer window.

Further seasonal restrictions on the timing of explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing (e.g., prohibiting all events from occurring from October through June within 20 NM from shore) would be impractical to implement, and such mitigation could potentially preclude the Navy from meeting its mine warfare test objectives.

From a mission perspective, the availability of some parameters (e.g., water depths and bottom types) for certain test objectives may only be found in certain portions of the Quinault Range Site. The Quinault Range Site is the only portion of the NWTT Offshore Area that extends as far landward as 3 NM from shore (outside of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary); therefore, events with test objectives that require access to these shallower water depths would be limited to certain portions of the Quinault Range Site. The mitigation areas developed for this event collectively overlap a significant portion of the suitable sea space where this activity can occur based on operational parameters. For example, explosive events are prohibited from occurring year-round within a significant portion of the Quinault Range Site due to overlap with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area. Further restrictions on the locations or timing of explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing for mitigation, such as prohibiting all events from occurring within certain distances from shore (e.g., within 12 NM, 20 NM, or 50 NM from shore), or requiring events to be conducted in deeper waters (e.g., deeper than 650 ft. to avoid potential impacts on marine mammals and ESA-listed fish) would be impractical to implement because such mitigation would preclude ready access to the range of water depths in which this activity is required to be conducted. The bathymetry of the NWTT Offshore Area includes a steep slope between water depths of 650 ft. and 1,000 ft. (the maximum water depth for this activity based on operational parameters), which creates very limited sea space between these water depths. Similarly, there is limited sea space shallower than 1,000 ft. beyond 50 NM and 20 NM from shore. Requiring activities to be conducted in certain water depths (e.g., waters deeper than 100 m [327 ft.], waters deeper than 650 ft.) or beyond 50 NM or 20 NM from shore would significantly limit the available sea space for this testing activity within the Study Area. Based on operational parameters established to meet testing program requirements, 300 ft. is the typical testing depth of explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing. Limiting testing to waters deeper than the typical testing depth requirement or beyond 50 NM or 20 NM from shore would be impractical to implement because such mitigation would preclude ready access to areas with the necessary environmental and oceanographic conditions to meet test program requirements. Similarly, limiting explosives in bin E4 to 6 NM from shore or greater, or all explosive bins to 12 NM from shore or greater would prevent the Navy from conducting testing in shallower environments within the Quinault Range Site, which may be necessary to meet certain mission requirements. In addition to depth limitations, events are limited by bottom type (e.g., bottom composition such as sand, mud, and rocks; and bottom profile such as roughness and ridge height), which varies widely in the Offshore Area. Therefore, not all areas that would meet certain depth requirements would necessarily also have a bottom type conducive to a particular test event. Such distance from shore or water depth restrictions would prevent the Navy from effectively testing systems and platforms (and components of these systems and platforms) before full-scale production or delivery to the fleet, which would not allow the Navy to ensure safety, functionality, and accuracy in military mission and combat conditions per required acquisition milestones or on an as-needed basis to meet operational requirements.

Expanding geographic mitigation requirements for other activities (e.g., limiting active sonar activities in the Quinault Range Site, developing additional distance-from-shore restrictions for explosive training or the use of active sonar, or creating stand-off distances around mitigation areas to expand their size) in the NWTT Offshore Area beyond what is described in Table K-2 would encroach upon the primary water

space where those training and testing activities are required to occur in this portion of the Study Area. Active sonar is the only reliable technology for detecting and tracking potential enemy diesel-electric submarines. The Navy needs to maintain access to sea space with the unique, challenging, and diverse environmental and oceanographic features (e.g., bathymetry, topography, surface fronts, and variations in sea surface temperature) analogous to military mission and combat conditions to achieve the highest skill proficiency and most accurate testing results possible. Eliminating opportunities for the Navy to train and test in a myriad of at-sea conditions would put U.S. forces at a tactical disadvantage during military missions and combat operations. This would also present a risk to national security if potential adversaries were to be alerted to the environmental conditions within which the U.S. Navy is prohibited from training and testing. Completely restricting large areas of ocean or other smaller areas that are critical to Navy training and testing would make training and concealment much more difficult and would adversely impact the Navy's ability to perform its statutory mission. For example, training with active sonar in varying ocean floor topographies, such as near canyons, is essential to national security; therefore, additional restrictions on the use of active sonar near Quinault, Grays Canyon, Guide, Willapa, Astoria, or Eel Canyons, would be impractical to implement because such mitigation would preclude ready access to areas with the necessary environmental and oceanographic conditions that replicate military mission and combat conditions. Preventing access to critical training waterspace would have a significant impact on the ability for units to meet their individual training and certification requirements (impacting the ability to deploy with the required level of readiness necessary to accomplish their missions), to certify forces to deploy to meet national security tasking (limiting the flexibility of Combatant Commanders and warfighters to project power, engage in multi-national operations, and conduct the full range of naval warfighting capability in support of national security interests).

The Navy requires extensive sea space so that individual training and testing activities can occur at sufficient distances such that these activities do not interfere with one another, so the Navy can safely avoid interaction with non-Navy sea space and airspace uses, and so that Navy units can train to communicate and operate in a coordinated fashion over tens or hundreds of square miles, as required during military missions and combat operations. Threats to national security are constantly evolving. The Navy requires the ability to adapt training and testing to meet these emerging threats. Restricting access to broad-scale areas of water would impact the ability for Navy training and testing to evolve as threats evolve. During the MMPA and ESA consultation processes, the Navy was able to identify several additional practical and effective mitigation area measures for mid-frequency activity sonar testing, including conducting a maximum combined total of 33 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during testing annually within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area. The Navy's anticipated level of training and testing activity evolves over time. Through the collection of several years' worth of classified data regarding the number of active sonar hours used to meet training and testing requirements, the Navy has an increased understanding of the usage of sonar, the competing training and testing requirements, and outside global realities that may cause sonar usage to fluctuate. These data allow for a more accurate projection of the number of active sonar hours required to meet training and testing requirements into the reasonably foreseeable future. In light of this information, the Navy was able to better formulate a range of reasonable alternatives that meet Navy training and testing requirements for the Proposed Action. Therefore, further reductions in proposed activity levels (either in total throughout the Study Area or in certain seasons or locations based on the presence of marine species) beyond those identified

in Table K-2 would preclude the Navy from meeting the training and testing requirements detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives).

Additional limitations on the locations where active sonar and explosives are allowed would require the Navy to shift its training activities to alternative locations farther offshore. This would have significant impacts on safety, sustainability, and the ability to meet mission requirements within limited available timeframes. Likewise, requiring weapons system program managers and research, testing, and development program managers to use alternative areas within limited available timeframes would deny them the necessary flexibility to rapidly field or develop systems to meet testing program requirements and emerging requirements. For example, blanket distance-from-shore requirements for active sonar within the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, would require the Navy to relocate its activities to alternative locations, such as farther offshore in the NWTT Offshore Area. Moving activities farther offshore would be impractical due to decreased event realism, increased resource allocations and operational costs (due to extending distance offshore and proximity to Navy support facilities, which would increase fuel consumption, maintenance, and time on station), increased safety risks (associated with conducting training and testing at extended distances offshore and farther away from critical medical and search and rescue resources), and accelerated fatigue-life of aircraft and ships (leading to increased safety risk and higher maintenance costs). Increased resource allocations and operational costs would serve as a limiting factor for Navy surface units whose available underway times are constrained by available manpower and fuel expenses. This would also reduce training or testing opportunities during a platform's limited available timeframes because increased time spent transiting to more distant training areas or test sites results in decreased time available for training or testing. For example, although sonar maintenance is typically conducted near a ship's homeport, it could also occur at sea in the NWTT Offshore Area. Sonar maintenance must be performed as the system's performance warrants; therefore, it would not be practical to restrict the locations, season, or time of day of this activity. Such restrictions would diminish the ability for Navy Sailors to train and become proficient in using sensors and weapon systems as required in areas analogous to where the military operates (which would result in a significant risk to personnel safety during military missions and combat operations), would have a significant impact on the ability of units to meet their individual training and certification requirements (which would impact the ability to deploy with the required level of readiness necessary to accomplish any tasking by Combatant Commanders), and prevent program managers and weapons system acquisition programs from meeting testing requirements and required acquisition milestones.

In summary, the Navy developed the mitigation areas identified in Table K-2 to avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine mammals, sea turtles, ESA-listed fish, and ESA-listed seabirds in areas the best available science suggest are particularly important for foraging, migration, or reproduction in the NWTT Offshore Area. Further restrictions on the level, number, or timing (seasonal or time of day) of training or testing activities in the NWTT Offshore Area would be impractical due to implications for safety, sustainability, and mission requirements. The iterative and cumulative impact of mitigation measures that the Navy considered but eliminated, as described above and in Section K.3.4 (Geographic Measures Considered but Eliminated) and Section 5.5 (Measures Considered but Eliminated), would deny national Command authorities the flexibility to respond to national security challenges and for the Navy to effectively accomplish the training and testing necessary for deployment and maintaining military readiness.

### K.3.3 Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in NWTT Inland Waters

As detailed in Table K-4, shown in Figure K-6, Figure K-7, and Figure K-8, and described in the sections below, the Navy developed mitigation areas in NWTT Inland Waters to further avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine mammals, ESA-listed fish, and marbled murrelets.

**Table K-4: Marine Species Mitigation Areas in NWTT Inland Waters**

| <i>Mitigation Area Description</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <p><b><u>Stressor or Activity</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sonar (mitigation does not apply to active sonar sources used for safety of navigation)</li> <li>• Explosives</li> <li>• Physical disturbance and strikes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b><u>Resource Protection Focus</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine mammals (gray whale, Southern Resident killer whale)</li> <li>• Seabirds (marbled murrelet)</li> <li>• Fish (bull trout, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon, green sturgeon, rockfish)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b><u>Mitigation Requirements<sup>1</sup></u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area (March 1–May 31)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within the Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area from March 1 to May 31: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area (year-round or seasonal if specified)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Within the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Navy will not use low-frequency, mid-frequency, or high-frequency active sonar during training or testing within the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area, unless a required element necessitates that the activity be conducted in NWTT Inland Waters during (1) Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training, (2) Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises, (3) activities conducted by Naval Sea Systems Command at designated locations, and (4) pierside sonar maintenance or testing at designated locations.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will use the lowest active sonar source levels practical to successfully accomplish each event.</li> <li>▪ Naval units will obtain permission from the appropriate designated Command authority prior to commencing pierside maintenance or testing with hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum of one Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training activity annually at the NAVY 3 OPAREA, NAVY 7 OPAREA, and Manchester Fuel Depot (i.e., a maximum of one event at each location).</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not use explosives during testing.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not use explosives during training except at the Hood Canal EOD Range and Crescent Harbor EOD Range during explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not use explosives in bin E4 (&gt;2.5–5 lb. net explosive weight) or above, and will instead use explosives in bin E0 (&lt; 0.1 lb. net explosive weight) or bin E3 (&gt; 0.5–2.5 lb. net explosive weight).</li> <li>▪ During February, March, and April at the Hood Canal EOD Range, the Navy will not use explosives in bin E3 (&gt; 0.5–2.5 lb. net explosive weight), and will instead use explosives in bin E0 (&lt; 0.1 lb. net explosive weight).</li> <li>▪ During August, September, and October at the Hood Canal EOD Range, the Navy will avoid using explosives in bin E3 (&gt; 0.5–2.5 lb. net explosive weight) and will instead use explosives in bin E0 (&lt; 0.1 lb. net explosive weight) to the maximum extent practical unless necessitated by mission requirements.</li> <li>▪ At the Crescent Harbor EOD Range, the Navy will conduct explosive activities at least 1,000 m from the closest point of land.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive live fire events in the mitigation area (except firing blank weapons), including gunnery exercises, missile exercises, torpedo exercises, bombing exercises, and Kinetic Energy Weapon Testing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

**Table K-4: Marine Species Mitigation Areas in NWTT Inland Waters (continued)**

| Mitigation Area Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Navy event planners will coordinate with Navy biologists during the event planning process prior to conducting (1) Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training at the NAVY 3 OPAREA, Manchester Fuel Depot, Crescent Harbor Explosive Ordnance Disposal Range, and NAVY 7 OPAREA (for Southern Resident killer whales), (2) Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises (for Southern Resident killer whales and gray whales), (3) explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers (for Southern Resident killer whales), and (4) Small Boat Attack Exercises, which involve firing blank small-caliber weapons (for Southern Resident killer whales and gray whales). Navy biologists will work with NMFS and will initiate communication with the appropriate marine mammal detection networks to determine the likelihood of applicable marine mammal species presence in the planned training location. Navy biologists will notify event planners of the likelihood of species presence. To the maximum extent practical, Navy planners will use this information when planning specific details of the event (e.g., timing, location, duration) to avoid planning activities in locations or seasons where species presence is expected. The Navy will ensure environmental awareness of event participants. Environmental awareness will help alert participating crews to the possible presence of applicable species in the training location. Lookouts will use the information to assist visual observation of applicable mitigation zones and to aid in the implementation of procedural mitigation. Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events at the NAVY 3 OPAREA, Manchester Fuel Depot, Crescent Harbor Explosive Ordnance Disposal Range, and NAVY 7 OPAREA will be cancelled or moved to another training location if the presence of Southern Resident killer whales is reported through available monitoring networks during the event planning process, or immediately prior to the event, as applicable.</li> <li>▪ The Navy will issue annual seasonal awareness notification messages to alert ships and aircraft operating within the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area to the possible presence of concentrations of Southern Resident killer whales from July 1 to November 30 in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca, and concentrations of gray whales from March 1 to May 31 in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and northern Puget Sound. For safe navigation and to avoid interactions with large whales, the Navy will instruct vessels to remain vigilant to the presence of Southern Resident killer whales and gray whales that may be vulnerable to vessel strikes or potential impacts from training and testing activities. Platforms will use the information from the awareness notification messages to assist their visual observation of applicable mitigation zones during training and testing activities and to aid in the implementation of procedural mitigation.</li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> Should national security present a requirement to conduct training or testing prohibited by the mitigation requirements specified in this table, naval units will obtain permission from the appropriate designated Command authority prior to commencement of the activity. The Navy will provide NMFS with advance notification and include relevant information about the event (e.g., sonar hours, explosives use, non-explosive practice munitions use) in its annual activity reports to NMFS.

The Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area was newly developed for the Proposed Action and was included in the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Within the Puget Sound and Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area, the Navy will continue to implement the following mitigation area measures from the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS (which were therefore also included in the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS):

- Requirements for naval units to obtain approval from the appropriate designated Command authority prior to conducting active sonar pierside maintenance or testing with hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar.
- Requirements for seasonal explosive charge size limitations and distance from shore restrictions for explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers. These requirements were presented in Section 5.3.3.7 (Explosive Mine Neutralization Activities Involving Navy Divers) of the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS; however, for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, they were reorganized and are now included in Table K-4 as geographic mitigation vice procedural mitigation.
- Requirements for Navy event planners to coordinate with Navy biologists and NMFS during the event planning process prior to conducting Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises and Small Boat Attack Exercises.

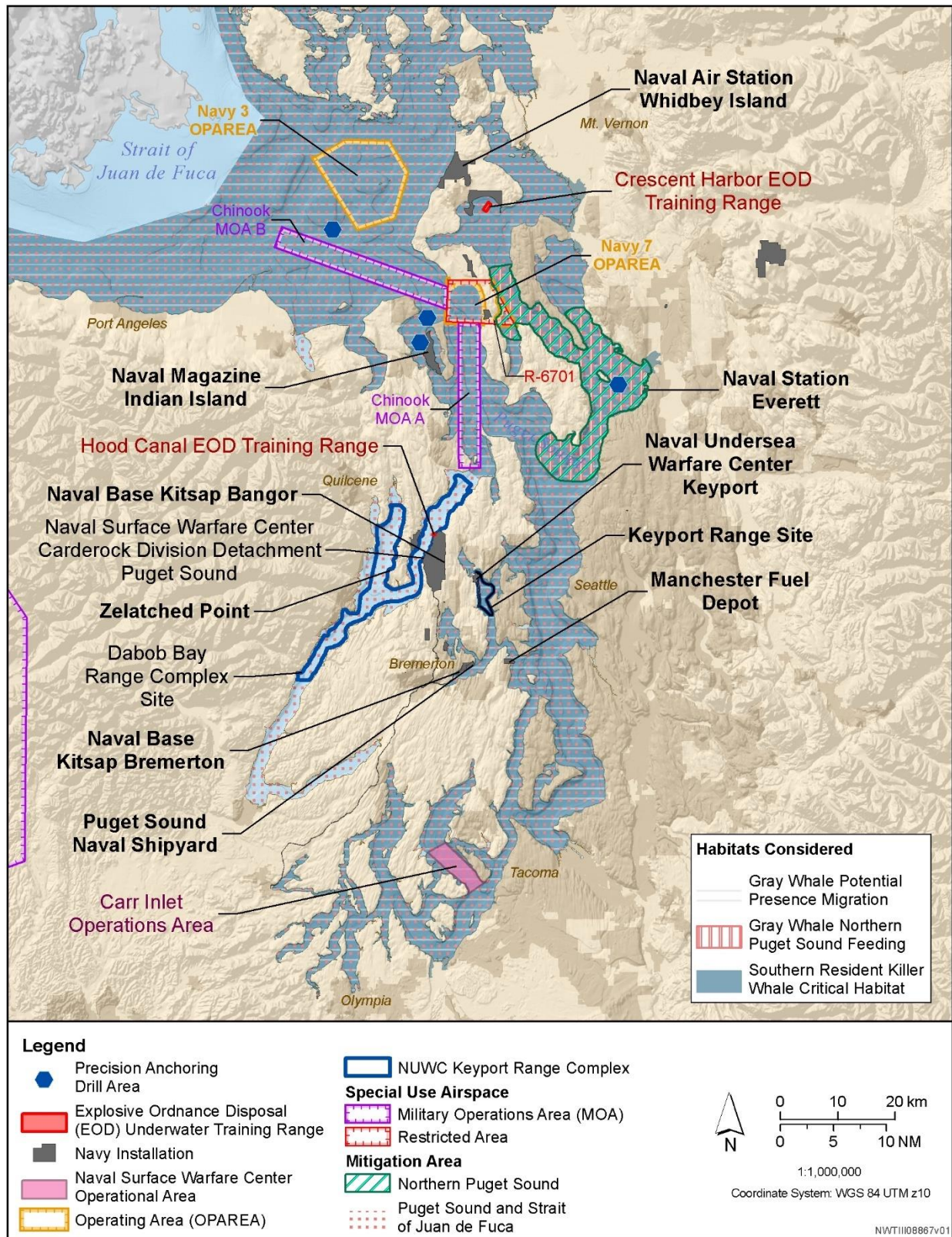
While conducting the Proposed Action under its Phase II permits, the Navy has, in practice, been implementing several environmental protection measures that exceed the mitigation requirements specified in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and associated consultation documents. These environmental protection measures helped inform development of certain aspects of the Proposed Action for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS; however, the Navy had not formally committed to them as mitigation to allow flexibility for future activities. During the MMPA and ESA consultations for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy determined it would be practical to codify those practices into formal mitigation area measures in NWTT Inland Waters for the Proposed Action. The Navy will implement the following mitigation area measures that are a continuation of current practice, but were not previously included in the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS or 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS:

- Requirements to not use low-, mid-, or high-frequency active sonar during training or testing unless a required element necessitates the activity be conducted in NWTT Inland Waters during (1) Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training, (2) Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises, (3) activities conducted by Naval Sea Systems Command at designated locations, and (4) pierside sonar maintenance or testing at designated locations.
- Requirements to use the lowest active sonar source levels practical to successfully accomplish each event.
- Requirements to not use explosives during testing.
- Requirements to not use explosives during training except at the Hood Canal Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Range and Crescent Harbor EOD Range during explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers, and for Navy event planners to coordinate with Navy biologists and NMFS, and initiate communication with the appropriate marine mammal detection networks during the event planning process prior to these events.
- Requirements to not conduct non-explosive live fire events (except firing blank weapons), including gunnery exercises, missile exercises, torpedo exercises, bombing exercises, and Kinetic Energy Weapon Testing.

The Navy also identified numerous opportunities to increase its mitigation measures applicable to the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area based on its ongoing analysis of the best available science and potential mitigation suggested by comments on the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and during the MMPA and ESA consultation processes. The Navy developed the following new mitigation area measures for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS:

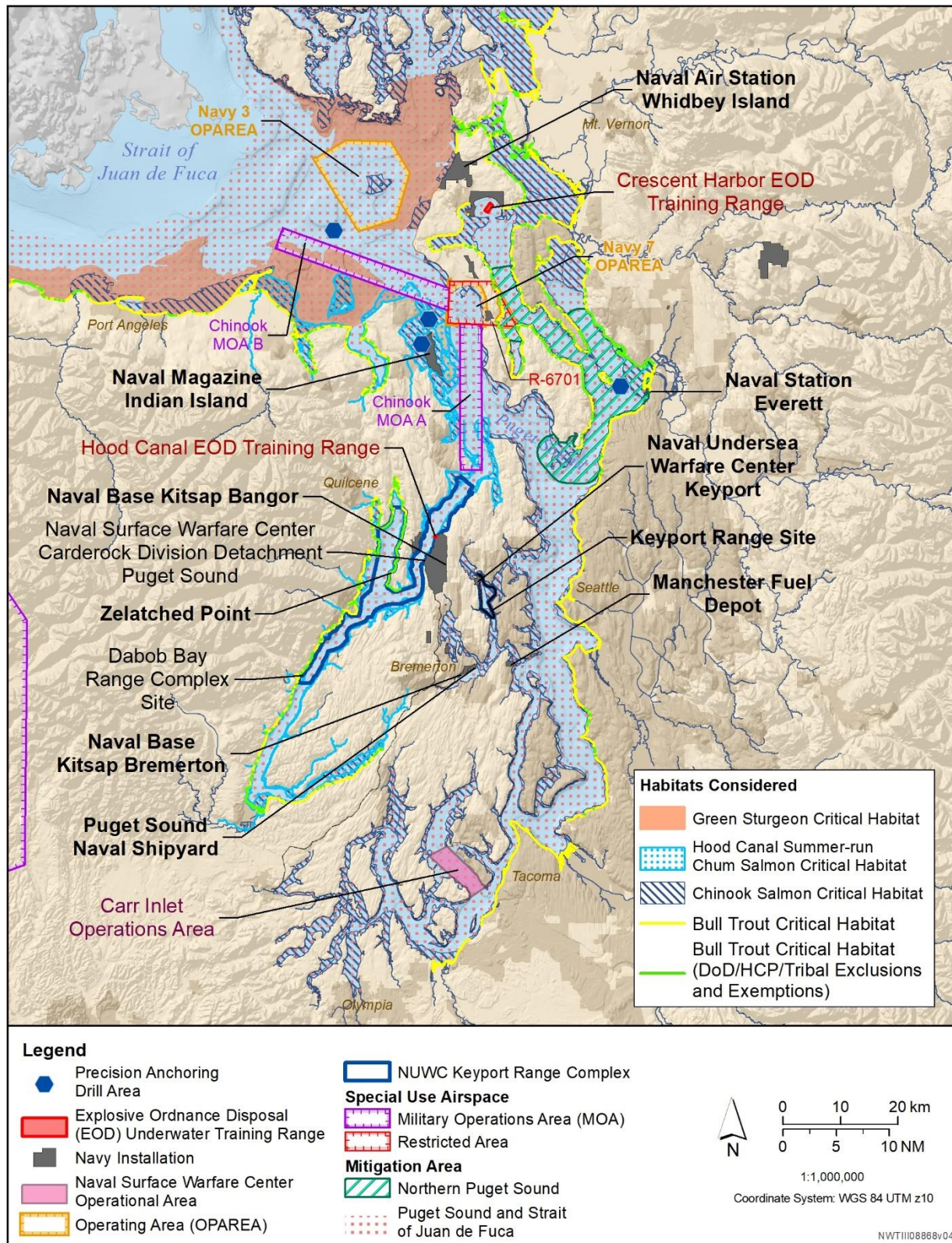
- Requirements to conduct a maximum of one Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training activity annually at the NAVY 3 Operating Area (OPAREA), NAVY 7 OPAREA, and Manchester Fuel Depot (i.e., a maximum of one event at each location).
- Requirements for Navy event planners to coordinate with Navy biologists and NMFS during the event planning process prior to conducting Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training at applicable locations, and to cancel or move events to another training location if the presence of Southern Resident killer whales is reported through available monitoring networks.
- Requirements to initiate communication with the appropriate marine mammal detection networks prior to conducting Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises and Small Boat Attack Exercises.
- Requirements to issue annual seasonal awareness notification messages to alert ships and aircraft operating within the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area to the possible presence of concentrations of Southern Resident killer whales and gray whales.





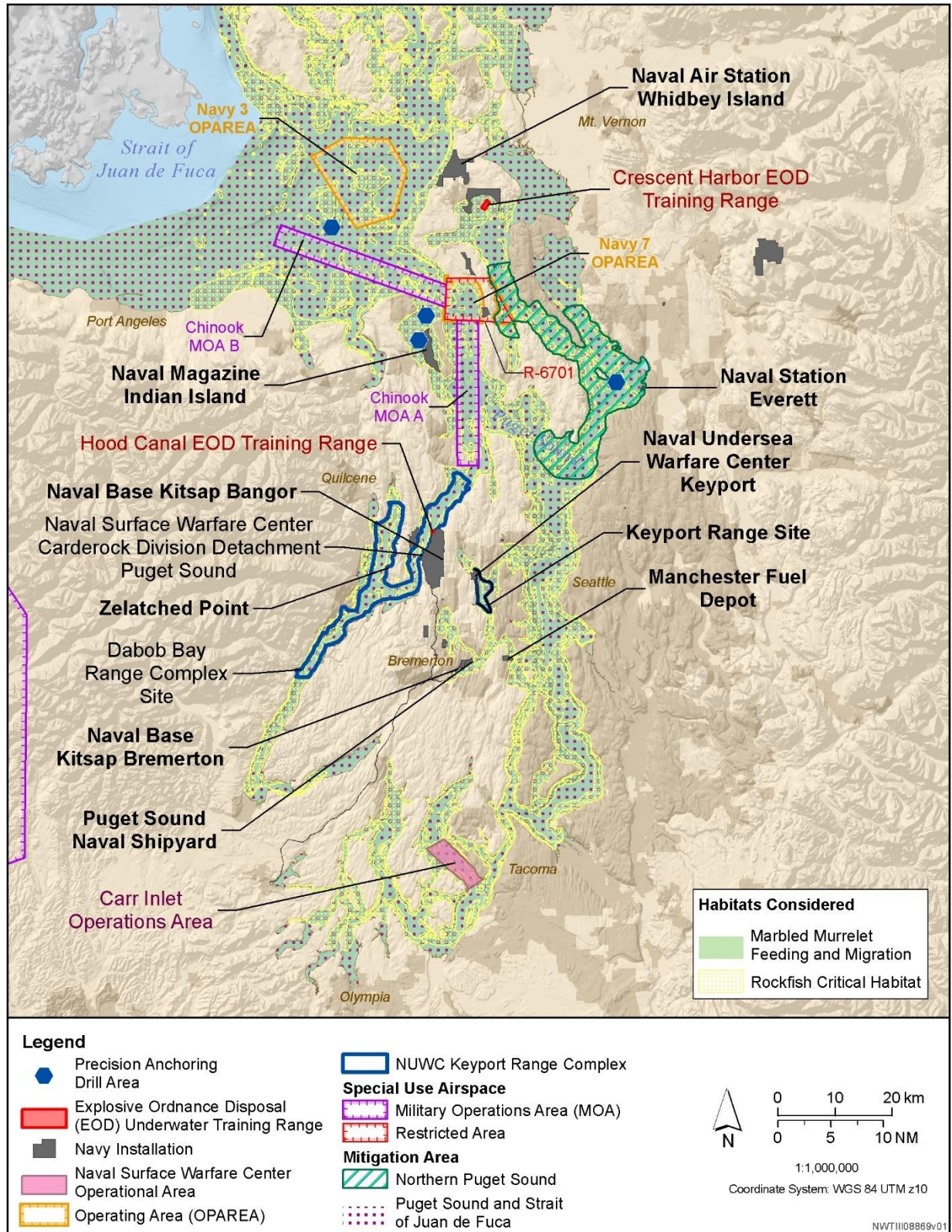
**Figure K-6: Marine Species Mitigation Areas and Marine Mammal Habitats Considered in NWT Inland Waters**





**Figure K-7: Marine Species Mitigation Areas and Bull Trout, Salmon, and Green Sturgeon Habitats Considered in NWT Inland Waters**





**Figure K-8: Marine Species Mitigation Areas and Rockfish and Marbled Murrelet Habitats Considered in NWT Inland Waters**

### **K.3.3.1 Resource Description**

The Navy conducted a comprehensive assessment of NWTT Inland Waters to identify habitats that serve as key areas of importance for biological life processes (i.e., foraging, migration, reproduction) for marine species. These key habitat areas, which include areas established by NMFS or the USFWS as critical habitat, identified by Calambokidis et al. (2015) as biologically important areas for marine mammals, or otherwise identified through the best available science are described in the sections below (organized by species). The portions of the habitats that overlap NWTT Inland Waters are shown in Figure K-6, Figure K-7, and Figure K-8. A map of Marine Protected Areas in NWTT Inland Waters is presented in Section 6.1.2 (Marine Protected Areas).

Because the purpose of developing mitigation areas is to avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine species within key areas of biological importance, the sections below focus on areas identified as important foraging, migration, and reproduction habitats. Therefore, not all species or areas with known marine species occurrence are discussed in the sections below. For example, although humpback whales are seasonally present, harbor porpoise are known to occur year-round, and leatherback sea turtles have been sighted in NWTT Inland Waters on rare occasion, the best available science does not indicate that any particular area within NWTT Inland Waters serves as a key area of biological importance for these species.

#### **K.3.3.1.1 Gray Whale**

A general discussion of gray whale migration throughout the North Pacific, Arctic, and United States West Coast is presented in Section K.3.2.1.2 (Gray Whale). Most gray whales use migration habitat within 10 km, 8 km, and 5 km from shore off the United States West Coast during their various phases of migration. Some gray whales have also been observed migrating within NWTT Inland Waters. To account for this, a biologically important area for potential presence of migration habitat was identified by Calambokidis et al. (2015) within Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca from January to July and October to December, as shown in Figure K-6. Gray whales migrating in this area are thought to be predominately from the Eastern North Pacific population, which is not ESA-listed (Carretta et al., 2017). Data from tagging, photo-identification, and genetic surveys also indicate a potential for migrating gray whales to be from the Western North Pacific population, which is listed under the ESA as endangered (Mate et al., 2015; Muir et al., 2016; Weller et al., 2013; Weller et al., 2002; Weller et al., 2012).

In addition to the potential presence of migration habitat, Calambokidis et al. (2015) identified a biologically important gray whale feeding habitat within NWTT Inland Waters. From March to May, gray whales feed in an area within northern Puget Sound around the south end of Whidbey Island and Camano Island. Some individuals that feed in northern Puget Sound demonstrate high interannual site fidelity during the feeding season. Gray whales feeding in this area are thought to be from the Eastern North Pacific population, but are not thought to be part of the Pacific Coast Feeding Group subpopulation (Calambokidis et al., 2015). The potential presence of migration and feeding areas were substantiated through long-term data obtained through vessel, aerial, and land-based surveys; photo-identification; genetic and tagging studies; opportunistic sightings from whale watching and fishing vessels; and expert judgment.

In summary, gray whales feed in and migrate through habitats throughout the North Pacific, Arctic, and along the United States West Coast, both within and outside of NWTT Inland Waters. Within NWTT Inland Waters, the best available science indicates that feeding (from March to May) and migration (from January to July and October to December) occur primarily within the biologically important areas

identified by Calambokidis et al. (2015); therefore, these habitat areas can be considered particularly important to gray whales relative to other locations in NWTT Inland Waters. For additional information about gray whales and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.4.1.14.3 (Distribution) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.3.1.2 Southern Resident Killer Whale**

The Southern Resident killer whale is a trans-boundary population with seasonal shifts in distribution within inland waters of Washington and southern British Columbia (Carretta et al., 2018; National Marine Fisheries Service, 2016). As shown in Figure K-6, NWTT Inland Waters overlap critical habitat designated by NMFS for Southern Resident killer whales, which are listed as endangered under the ESA. The critical habitat extends throughout Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, except in Hood Canal and locations where the water depth is less than 6.1 m (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2016; National Marine Fisheries Service: Northwest Region, 2006; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2014b). Essential features for this critical habitat include the occurrence of important fish prey species and passage conditions to allow for migration, resting, and foraging (71 FR 69054).

Long-term photo-identification studies of individual Southern Resident killer whales has resulted in a substantial understanding of this population's structure, behaviors, and movements in NWTT Inland Waters (Wiles, 2016; Wright et al., 2017). In spring and summer months, the Southern Resident stock is most frequently seen in the San Juan Islands region with intermittent sightings in Puget Sound (Olson & Osborne, 2017; Olson et al., 2018; Shields et al., 2018), which is consistent with the "summer core area" identified during the establishment of the critical habitat. During the summer months, Southern Resident killer whales preferentially consume Chinook salmon, and may also prey on chum, coho, steelhead, sockeye, and various non-salmonids such as Pacific herring and quillback rockfish (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2014a). In the fall and early winter months, the Southern Resident killer whales are seen more frequently in Puget Sound, where returning chum, steelhead, and Chinook salmon are concentrated; Chinook are targeted preferentially when available (Ford et al., 2009; Ford et al., 2016; Hanson et al., 2018). By winter, they spend progressively less time in NWTT Inland Waters and more time off the coast of Washington, Oregon, and California (Black, 2011; Cogan, 2015; Hanson et al., 2017; National Marine Fisheries Service, 2016; Olson & Osborne, 2017). Additional information about Southern Resident killer whale prey species is included in the sections below.

While Southern Resident killer whales are frequently sighted in the main basin of Puget Sound, their presence near Navy installations varies from not present at all to infrequent sightings, depending on the season (Olson & Osborne, 2017; Olson et al., 2018). Southern Resident killer whales have not been reported in Hood Canal or Dabob Bay since 1995 (National Marine Fisheries Service: Northwest Region, 2006). Near Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton and Keyport, the Southern Resident killer whale is also rare, with the last confirmed sighting in Dyes Inlet in 1997 (the Navy has assumed transients will occasionally be present in these areas). Southern Resident killer whales have been observed in Saratoga Passage and Possession Sound near Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and Naval Station Everett, respectively, and have also been observed in southern Puget Sound in the Carr Inlet area.

In summary, Southern Resident killer whales feed in areas throughout the North Pacific, both within and outside of NWTT Inland Waters. Within NWTT Inland Waters, the best available science indicates that foraging occurs throughout the critical habitat designated by NMFS; therefore, the critical habitat (i.e., the entire extent of NWTT Inland Waters) can be considered particularly important to Southern Resident killer whales. For additional information about Southern Resident killer whales and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.4.1.16.3 (Distribution) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### K.3.3.1.3 Bull Trout

The Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of bull trout encompasses all Pacific Coast drainages within the United States north of the Columbia River in Washington, including those flowing into Puget Sound. This population is thought to contain the only anadromous form of bull trout in the United States. As shown in Figure K-7, one area that overlaps NWTT Inland Waters has been designated by the USFWS as critical habitat for the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of bull trout, which is listed as threatened under the ESA. Essential features for the critical habitat include foraging and migration habitats (75 FR 63898).

Bull trout in marine waters are shoreline-oriented (Goetz, 2016) and enter marine water for the primary purpose of foraging on smaller fish in the intertidal and subtidal zones of the photic zone, primarily in water less than 10 m deep. Although bull trout in marine water will occasionally use areas deeper than 10 m, they do not maintain position and soon return to shallower water. In NWTT Inland Waters, anadromous bull trout enter marine waters in early spring, with residence time in salt water averaging two months, with a maximum of four months (Goetz, 2016). Marine nearshore and estuarine habitats are highly productive due to the complexity of habitats and nutrient inputs, providing important foraging habitat including eelgrass and kelp for prey species such as juvenile salmon, Pacific herring, surf smelt, and sand lance. Skagit Bay contains shallow water at low tide enabling larger juvenile, sub-adult, and adult bull trout from the Skagit River to migrate to the nearshore of Whidbey Island and Crescent Harbor. This nearshore marine environment provides a year-round migratory corridor for bull trout from their natal streams to other locations within Puget Sound or nearby watersheds to forage and overwinter (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2016).

In summary, the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of bull trout feeds in and migrates through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside NWTT Inland Waters. Within NWTT Inland Waters, the best available science indicates that migration and foraging occur primarily within the critical habitat designated by the USFWS and other nearshore areas throughout parts of Puget Sound, including Skagit Bay; therefore, these habitats can be considered particularly important to bull trout relative to other locations in NWTT Inland Waters. For additional information about bull trout and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.6 (Bull Trout [*Salvelinus confluentus*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### K.3.3.1.4 Puget Sound Chinook Salmon

NWTT Inland Waters overlap critical habitat designated by NMFS for Puget Sound Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened under the ESA. As shown in Figure K-7, the critical habitat extends throughout nearshore waters of Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the line of extreme high tide out to a depth of 30 m. Essential features for this critical habitat include areas that support growth, maturation, and foraging (70 FR 52685).

Juvenile Chinook salmon rear throughout the nearshore regions of Puget Sound before leaving the Sound (Fresh, 2006). Some of these fish use small stream mouths or “pocket estuaries” along the shore of Puget Sound (Beamer et al., 2003). Juvenile chinook salmon in Puget Sound are widely distributed and may be found along all stretches of shoreline at some point during the year (Fresh, 2006). However, about a third of Puget Sound Chinook salmon remain all year in the Sound instead of migrating to the ocean. These are called resident or “blackmouth” Chinook salmon (Puget Sound Partnership, 2017; Simenstad et al., 1982). In general, south Puget Sound tends to produce more resident Chinook salmon than areas to the north. Studies of fish implanted with acoustic transmitters have shown that resident

Chinook demonstrate high site fidelity within their home areas, rather than moving widely about Puget Sound (Dunagan, 2016).

Hood Canal has extant populations of Puget Sound Chinook in the Skokomish River watershed and mid-Hood Canal region (including spawning populations in the Hamma Hamma, Duckabush, and Dosewallips watersheds) (Ford et al., 2011). All juvenile Chinook salmon emigrating from or adults immigrating to these watersheds migrate through Hood Canal (e.g., Puget Sound Chinook migration near the Hood Canal EOD Range generally occurs from August through October)(National Marine Fisheries Service, 2015). Additionally, some Puget Sound Chinook that mature solely in the Salish Sea and do not migrate into the North Pacific Ocean are likely to spend at least a portion of their time foraging in proximity to the Hood Canal EOD range (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2015).

In summary, Puget Sound Chinook salmon feed in and migrate through habitats throughout Puget Sound and the United States West Coast, both within and outside of NWTT Inland Waters. Within NWTT Inland Waters, the best available science indicates that foraging and migration occur primarily within critical habitat designated by NMFS and other nearshore areas including Hood Canal; therefore, these habitats can be considered as particularly important to Chinook salmon relative to other locations in NWTT Inland Waters. For additional information about Chinook salmon and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.1 (Chinook Salmon [*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.3.1.5 Hood Canal Summer-Run Chum Salmon**

NWTT Inland Waters overlap critical habitat designated by NMFS for the Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit, which is listed as threatened under the ESA. As shown in Figure K-7, the critical habitat extends throughout nearshore waters of Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the line of extreme high tide out to a depth of 30 m. Essential features for this critical habitat include areas that support growth, maturation, and foraging (70 FR 52685).

Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon may migrate between NWTT Inland Waters and the NWTT Offshore Area. Hood Canal summer-run chum juveniles migrate from freshwater into estuary habitat generally from the first week in February through the second week in April (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife & Point No Point Treaty Tribes, 2000). Returning adults begin to arrive in Hood Canal in early August, and are thought to stage in front of their stream of origin for approximately 10–12 days (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2015). Migration into freshwater spawning grounds generally occurs from late August to late October (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife & Point No Point Treaty Tribes, 2000).

In summary, Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon feed in and migrate through habitats throughout Puget Sound and the United States West Coast, both within and outside of NWTT Inland Waters. Within NWTT Inland Waters, the best available science indicates that foraging and migration occur primarily within critical habitat designated by NMFS, including the nearshore areas of Hood Canal; therefore, the critical habitat can be considered as particularly important to chum salmon relative to other locations in NWTT Inland Waters. For additional information about chum salmon and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.1.3 (Chum Salmon [*Oncorhynchus keta*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.



#### K.3.3.1.6 Green Sturgeon

Green sturgeon forage in and migrate through estuaries and bays ranging from San Francisco Bay to British Columbia (Huff et al., 2012). NWTT Inland Waters contain critical habitat designated by NMFS for the Southern Distinct Population Segment of green sturgeon, which is listed as threatened under the ESA. As shown in Figure K-7, the critical habitat extends throughout several rivers and estuaries along the United States West Coast, including in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Essential features for the critical habitat include foraging and migration habitats (74 FR 52300). Green sturgeon prefer marine areas with high seafloor complexity and boulder presence at depths of 20–60 m (Huff et al., 2011). Green sturgeon forage in coastal waters on benthic prey species.

In summary, the Southern Distinct Population Segment of green sturgeon feed in and migrate through habitats off the United States West Coast, both within and outside of NWTT Inland Waters. Within NWTT Inland Waters, the best available science indicates that migration and foraging occur primarily within the critical habitat designated by NMFS; therefore, this habitat can be considered particularly important to green sturgeon relative to other locations in NWTT Inland Waters. For additional information about green sturgeon and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.3.2 (Green Sturgeon [*Acipenser medirostris*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### K.3.3.1.7 Rockfish

NWTT Inland Waters overlap critical habitat designated by NMFS for the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Distinct Population Segments of bocaccio (which are listed as endangered under the ESA) and yelloweye rockfish (which are listed as threatened under the ESA). As shown in Figure K-8, the critical habitat extends throughout nearshore waters of Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the line of extreme high tide out to a depth of 30 m. Essential features for this critical habitat include areas that support growth, maturation, and foraging (79 FR 68041). These populations of rockfish only occur in the NWTT Inland Waters portion of the Study Area.

Preferred bocaccio habitat is largely dependent upon the life stage of an individual. Benthic habitats or sites deeper than 30 m that possess or are adjacent to areas of complex bathymetry consisting of rock and or highly rugose habitat are essential to conservation because these features support growth, survival, reproduction, and feeding opportunities by providing the structure for rockfishes to avoid predation, seek food and persist for decades. Juvenile settlement habitats located in the nearshore with substrates such as sand, rock, or cobble compositions that also support kelp are essential for conservation because these features enable forage opportunities and refuge from predators and enable behavioral and physiological changes needed for juveniles to occupy deeper adult habitats (Love et al., 2002).

Oceanographic conditions within Puget Sound likely result in the larvae staying within the basin where they are born rather than being broadly dispersed by tidal action or currents (Drake et al., 2010). Once bocaccio reach 1–3.5 inches, they move into shallow nearshore waters, with rocky or cobble substrates, preferably with kelp (Love et al., 2002). As juveniles mature into adults (around 7 years), they move offshore to greater depths. As adults, bocaccio tend to prefer rocky habitats (hard substrate), but they have also been documented along areas of high relief and non-rocky substrates such as sand, mud, and other unconsolidated substrates (Miller & Borton, 1980). Rocky habitats are limited in the Puget Sound, with only 10 square km of such habitat in Puget Sound proper, and 207 square km in north Puget Sound (Palsson et al., 2009).



Recent research has found evidence for two subpopulations of yelloweye rockfish within the population: one in Hood Canal and one in the rest of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin (National Marine Fisheries Service, 2017). Unlike bocaccio, juvenile yelloweye rockfish do not occupy intertidal habitat, but are observed in deeper, offshore waters greater than 30 m (Studebaker et al., 2009). They are typically associated with shallow high relief rocky or sponge garden habitats (Love, 2011). As adults, yelloweye rockfish move in to deeper rocky, high relief habitats greater than 30 m, particularly associated with caves and crevices, pinnacles, and boulder fields (Carlson & Straty, 1981; Love et al., 1991; O'Connell & Carlile, 1993; Richards, 1986; Yoklavich et al., 2000). Adults are most commonly found between 40 m and 250 m (Love et al. 2002; Orr et al. 2000). Yelloweyes generally occur as individuals, with loose, residential aggregations infrequently found (Coombs, 1978; DeMott, 1982; Love et al., 2002).

In summary, Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Distinct Population Segments of bocaccio and yelloweye rockfish feed in and migrate through habitats throughout the United States West Coast, both within and outside of NWTT Inland Waters. The best available science indicates that foraging and migration occur primarily within critical habitat designated by NMFS; therefore, the critical habitat can be considered as particularly important to bocaccio and yelloweye rockfish relative to other locations in NWTT Inland Waters. For additional information about bocaccio and yelloweye rockfish, their habitat usage, and geographic range, see Section 3.9.2.4.2.1 (Bocaccio [*Sebastes paucispinis*]) and Section 3.9.2.4.2.3 (Yelloweye Rockfish [*Sebastes ruberrimus*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.3.1.8 Marbled Murrelet**

The marbled murrelet is listed as threatened under the ESA in Washington, Oregon, and California (57 FR 45328). Critical habitat has not been designated in the marine environment for marbled murrelets but does occur in the terrestrial mature and old growth forests within 48 km of the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1997) recovery plan established six marbled murrelet conservation zones that extend 2 km (1.1 NM) seaward from shore to assist the design of management actions and evaluation of impacts. NWTT Inland Waters overlap a portion of marbled murrelet Conservation Zone 1. Marbled murrelet Conservation Zones 3, 4, 5, and 6 are located outside of or adjacent to the Study Area, however, individual marbled murrelets from these zones could occur in Conservation Area 1 due to the transient nature of this species. For information on Conservation Zone 2, which overlaps a portion of the NWTT Offshore Area, see Section K.3.2.1.13 (Marbled Murrelet).

As shown in Figure K-8, marbled murrelets occur year-round in inland marine waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound. In the summer breeding season from April through September, marbled murrelets primarily forage in the nearshore waters of the San Juan Islands, Rosario Strait, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet, Puget Sound, and Hood Canal. During the winter non-breeding season from October through March, some marbled murrelets disperse to forage farther from shore, while other marbled murrelets transit into Puget Sound from Canada and concentrate near the southern and eastern end of Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Islands, and Puget Sound (Piatt et al., 2007; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2016).

In summary, marbled murrelets feed in and migrate through (e.g., transit from foraging areas to inland nesting habitat) marine waters in Washington, Oregon, and California, both within and outside of NWTT Inland Waters. The best available science indicates that NWTT Inland Waters are particularly important feeding and migration habitat for marbled murrelets year-round. For additional information about marbled murrelets and their habitat use and geographic range, see Section 3.6.1.7 (Marbled Murrelet [*Brachyramphus marmoratus*]) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

### K.3.3.2 Mitigation Area Assessment

#### K.3.3.2.1 Biological Effectiveness

As shown in Figure K-6, Figure K-7, and Figure K-8, each habitat considered in NWTT Inland Waters either partially overlaps or is fully contained within one or both mitigation areas. To demonstrate the level of overlap, Table K-5 identifies the percent of each habitat considered that is contained within each mitigation area in NWTT Inland Waters. These percentages factor in only the portions of each habitat located inside the Study Area. A qualitative discussion of the biological effectiveness of mitigation areas in NWTT Inland Waters is provided in the sections below.

**Table K-5: Percent of Habitat Considered Contained Within Mitigation Areas in NWTT Inland Waters**

| <i>Habitat Considered</i>                                           | <i>Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area</i> | <i>Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gray Whale Northern Puget Sound Feeding Biologically Important Area | 100%                                                   | 100%                                                          |
| Southern Resident Killer Whale Critical Habitat                     | 5%                                                     | 100%                                                          |
| Bull Trout Critical Habitat                                         | 16%                                                    | 100%                                                          |
| Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat                         | 4%                                                     | 100%                                                          |
| Hood Canal Summer-Run Chum Salmon Critical Habitat                  | -                                                      | 100%                                                          |
| Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat                                     | -                                                      | 100%                                                          |
| Rockfish Critical Habitat                                           | 6%                                                     | 100%                                                          |
| Marbled Murrelet Habitat                                            | 5%                                                     | 100%                                                          |

##### K.3.3.2.1.1 Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area

The Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area fully overlaps the biologically important gray whale feeding habitat identified by Calambokidis et al. (2015), and a portion of the biologically important area for potential presence of gray whale migration. Within this mitigation area, the Navy will not conduct Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises from March 1 to May 31, which is the gray whale feeding season at this location. Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises are multi-day events that involve aircraft, surface vessels, and unmanned underwater vehicles using high-frequency active sonar and other systems to train to detect non-explosive underwater mine shapes. By not conducting this activity in the Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area during the feeding season, the Navy will avoid potential impacts from vessel movements, towed-in water devices, and active sonar on gray whales in their important feeding area.

The Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area is located entirely within the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area. As described in the section below, mitigation in the Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area will further help the Navy avoid potential impacts on gray whale feeding in this location. For example, the Navy will not conduct any training or testing activities using explosives or non-explosive live fire ordnance (except firing blank weapons) within this portion of the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area.

**K.3.3.2.1.2 Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area**

The Navy established the boundaries of the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area to encompass the full extent of NWTT Inland Waters, for the purpose of maximizing mitigation benefits within key marine mammal, marbled murrelet, and ESA-listed fish habitat areas. The mitigation area fully overlaps every important feeding and migration habitat described in Section K.3.3.1 (Resource Description) in NWTT Inland Waters. This includes feeding and potential presence of migration habitat for gray whales, feeding and migration habitat (e.g., transiting from foraging areas to inland nesting habitat) for marbled murrelets, and critical habitat for Southern Resident killer whales, bull trout, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon, green sturgeon, bocaccio rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish. Collectively, mitigation in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area is designed to help the Navy avoid any potential impacts on Southern Resident killer whales in NWTT Inland Waters, and to avoid or reduce potential impacts on the other previously mentioned ESA-listed species, as described below.

Requirements for naval units to obtain approval from the appropriate designated Command authority prior to conducting active sonar pierside maintenance or testing with hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar is intended to elevate the situational and environmental awareness of respective Command authorities during the event planning process. Requiring designated Command authority approval provides an increased level of assurance that mid-frequency active sonar is a required element for each event. Such authorizations are typically based on the unique characteristics of the area from a military readiness perspective, taking into account the importance of the area for marine species and the need to mitigate potential impacts on Southern Resident killer whales (and other marine mammals, such as gray whales) to the maximum extent practicable.

Mitigation measures to only use low-frequency, mid-frequency, or high-frequency active sonar when a required element necessitates that the activity be conducted in NWTT Inland Waters effectively reduces the types of active sonar activities, and therefore the overall amount of active sonar (i.e., number of hours) conducted in the mitigation area. As described in Section K.3.3.2.2 (Operational Assessment), some training and testing activities have elements that necessitate events be conducted in NWTT Inland Waters. The Navy will implement additional mitigation during those activities. For example, mitigation to use the lowest active sonar source levels practical will help reduce the overall potential for exposure while allowing the Navy to successfully accomplish events that require the use of active sonar in designated locations. These mitigation measures are primarily designed to avoid or reduce potential impacts on Southern Resident killer whales and gray whales. Based on seasonal density data, Southern Resident killer whale occurrence is either not anticipated or is expected to be infrequent at Naval Sea Systems Command testing sites and in the locations where pierside maintenance and testing are designated to occur. These areas offer a controlled static and sheltered environment, which increases the likelihood that any Southern Resident killer whales or gray whales would be observed by Navy Lookouts, as described in Section 5.3.2.1 (Active Sonar). The mitigation will also help avoid or reduce potential impacts on marbled murrelets and ESA-listed fish.

The Navy will issue annual seasonal awareness notification messages to further help avoid potential impacts from vessel strikes and training and testing activities on Southern Resident killer whales and gray whales. The awareness notification messages will coincide with the seasons in which Southern Resident killer whales and gray whales are most likely to be observed in concentrations in the mitigation area (July 1 to November 30). Southern Resident killer whales are most likely to be observed in spring and summer in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and San Juan Islands region, and in fall and early winter in

Puget Sound, which correlates with periods of Southern Resident killer whale prey availability. Gray whales are most likely to be observed from March 1 to May 31 in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and northern Puget Sound, which correlates to feeding in, and migration to and from, the biologically important gray whale feeding area.

Navy biologists will initiate communication with the appropriate marine mammal detection networks to help the Navy plan explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers, Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training, Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises, and Small Boat Attack Exercises in a way that minimizes the potential exposure of Southern Resident killer whales or gray whales to these activities in applicable locations. The Navy will not implement this mitigation in locations where Southern Resident killer whale or gray whale presence (and associated potential impacts) are not expected. For example, the Navy will not obtain marine mammal detection network sightings information or coordinate with NMFS during Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training event planning at the Dabob Bay Range Complex. The Dabob Bay Range Complex is located outside of Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat, and Southern Resident killer whales have not been reported there since 1995 (National Marine Fisheries Service: Northwest Region, 2006). Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events (and other activities that occur in the Dabob Bay Range Complex) are not expected to overlap with the occurrence of Southern Resident killer whales. The Navy will, however, limit the number of annual Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events in the locations with the highest probabilities of Southern Resident killer whale presence (the NAVY 3 OPAREA, NAVY 7 OPAREA, and Manchester Fuel Depot), based on seasonal density data. Seasonal awareness messages, in combination with obtaining marine mammal detection network sightings data and coordinating with NMFS biologists during the event planning phase, are expected to help the Navy avoid any potential impacts on Southern Resident killer whales during Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events.

Opportunistic sighting information is available for marine mammals in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca from non-governmental organizations, such as the Orca Network. The Orca Network manages a Whale Sighting Network website that archives past reports of visual observations of whales submitted by volunteers. The Orca Network focuses primarily on killer whales, but also features reports of other observed marine mammal species, such as gray whales. Another sighting network, the Whale Report Alert System, was established in 2018 by a conservation and research program known as the British Columbia Cetacean Sightings Network. The Whale Report Alert System relies on a network of volunteer observers to submit reports of cetacean sightings. Access to the Whale Report Alert System is granted to operators of ships, tugs, and ferries. Operators are alerted to the presence of whales with 10 NM of their vessel's location via text messages sent through the Whale Report Alert System app on their mobile devices, or by logging into a desktop version to obtain a map of recent sightings. Because the program is undertaken in partnership with the Government of Canada, reports have been predominately made in Canadian waters, but have also been made in some northern U.S. waters (typically near the northern San Juan Islands region). The program intends to extend its effective range southward in Puget Sound to strategically include U.S. waters as part of the dedicated observation area. A team of Navy Officers and biologists began participating with the Governor of Washington's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force in 2019, including the Vessels Working Group. As part of the Vessels Working Group, the Navy began investigating potential mechanisms for broadcasting Whale Report Alert System sightings of Southern Resident killer whales to Navy platforms conducting training or testing in NWT Inland Waters. As the Whale Report Alert System continues to expand into U.S. waters,

the Navy will continue to explore the opportunity to engage with this sightings network as a future mitigation tool.

The Navy will also continue to assess the practicality of other available monitoring techniques as technologies advance. For example, there are limitations to the currently deployed hydrophone networks that would make implementing mitigation during Navy training and testing impractical (e.g., due to an inability to accurately geolocate acoustic detections); however, as part of the adaptive management process, the Navy will continue to assess these technologies as they mature. The Navy will provide information to NMFS about the status and findings of such assessments at the annual adaptive management meetings. Information about the Navy's adaptive management program is included in Section 5.1.2.2.1.1 (Adaptive Management).

The Navy will prohibit all explosive testing activities and all explosive training activities except explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers. The only locations where the Navy will allow the use of explosives in the mitigation area is the Hood Canal EOD Range and Crescent Harbor EOD Range. Mitigation to only use explosives during a single type of training at two designated locations and to prohibit explosives in bin E4 or above effectively reduces the locations, charge sizes, and overall annual number of detonations in the mitigation area. These mitigation measures are designed to avoid or reduce potential overlap of explosive activities within Southern Resident killer whale, gray whale, marbled murrelet, and ESA-listed fish habitat to the maximum extent practical.

Mitigation at the Hood Canal EOD Range to prohibit explosives in bin E3 in February, March, and April is designed to reduce potential exposures and level of impacts on juvenile Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon. As described in Section K.3.3.1.5 (Hood Canal Summer-Run Chum Salmon), this time period aligns with the juvenile migration period for Hood Canal summer-run chum. Mitigation to avoid using explosives in bin E3 to the maximum extent practical in August, September, and October is designed to reduce potential exposures and level of impacts on adult Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon. As described in Section K.3.3.1.4 (Puget Sound Chinook Salmon) and K.3.3.1.5 (Hood Canal Summer-Run Chum Salmon), this time period aligns with the adult migration periods for these species. Although charge size restrictions at the Hood Canal EOD Range are primarily designed to benefit Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon, they may also benefit other species, such as gray whales, rockfish, and marbled murrelets. Southern Resident killer whales have not been reported at the Hood Canal EOD Range since 1995 (National Marine Fisheries Service: Northwest Region, 2006).

Year-round mitigation at the Crescent Harbor EOD Range to not conduct explosive activities within 1,000 m of the closest point of land is primarily designed to avoid or reduce potential impacts on the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of bull trout. As described in Section K.3.3.1.3 (Bull Trout), the nearshore waters in Skagit Bay, including waters at the Crescent Harbor EOD Range, provide a year-round migratory corridor for bull trout from their natal streams to other locations within Puget Sound or nearby watersheds to forage and overwinter (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2016). Although mitigation at the Crescent Harbor EOD Range is primarily designed to benefit bull trout, it may also benefit other species, such as Southern Resident killer whales (although they have not been observed regularly at the Crescent Harbor Explosive Disposal Range), gray whales, marbled murrelets, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, and rockfish.

Mitigation to prohibit all live fire training and testing activities in the mitigation area, including gunnery exercises, missile exercises, torpedo exercises, bombing exercises, and Kinetic Energy Weapon Testing,

will help the Navy avoid any impacts from explosives and non-explosive practice munitions on marine mammals, marbled murrelets, and ESA-listed fish throughout NWTT Inland Waters. The only firing activities that the Navy will conduct in the mitigation areas are those that involve firing blank small-caliber weapons. One of these activities, Small Boat Attack Exercises, will also implement mitigation to obtain marine mammal detection network data on Southern Resident killer whale sightings and coordinate with NMFS to determine the likelihood of Southern Resident killer whale and gray whale presence. Small Boat Attack Exercises involve high-speed Navy security force vessels that could overlap Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat and gray whale feeding or potential presence of migration habitat. While there is not a potential risk to these species from blank small-caliber weapons, mitigation for Small Boat Attack Exercises will help the Navy avoid potential impacts from high-speed vessel movements.

In addition to the resources described above, mitigation in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area will also help the Navy avoid or reduce potential impacts on other resources within NWTT Inland Waters. For example, mitigation will help avoid impacts from active sonar, explosives, and physical disturbance and strike stressors in marine protected areas located within or along the shoreline of the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area, such as the San Juan Islands Marine Preserve, San Juan Island National Historical Park, San Juan County/Cypress Island Marine Biological Preserve, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge, Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, Zella M. Schultz/Protection Island Seabird Sanctuary, and Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Additional information on marine protected areas is presented in Section 6.1.2 (Marine Protected Areas) of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **K.3.3.2.2 Operational Assessment**

As described in Section K.3.3.2.1 (Biological Effectiveness), some training and testing elements necessitate that active sonar or explosive events be conducted in NWTT Inland Waters. For example, some events have mission requirements or testing program objectives that require access to facilities, test sites, established Navy ranges, safety infrastructure, or water depths and other environmental conditions that are only available in the Inland Waters portion of the Study Area. Therefore, these events cannot be shifted to (or replicated in) the NWTT Offshore Area. The Navy uses select locations in NWTT Inland Waters for these training and testing events because this portion of the Study Area provides valuable access to certain sea space and airspace conditions analogous to areas where the Navy operates or may need to operate in the future. For example, the Navy conducts Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises in conjunction with Department of Homeland Security units within NWTT Inland Waters because this portion of the Study Area provides the necessary environmental conditions for event realism. The Navy selects specific Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises locations and scenarios according to Department of Homeland Security strategic goals and evolving world events. It is critical for national security that the Navy maintain the flexibility to conduct this exercise in a variety of locations and seasons in NWTT Inland Waters. Mine Neutralization – EOD Training activities are conducted at the Crescent Harbor EOD Range and Hood Canal EOD Range because these locations provide the necessary conditions for water depth and other environmental parameters required for mission success and safe conditions for training Navy divers in the safe handling of explosive charges. The Navy chooses other training locations in NWTT Inland Waters based on proximity to training ranges (e.g., NAVY 3 OPAREA), available airspace (e.g., Chinook MOA A and B, avoiding airspace conflicts with major airports such as

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport), unobstructed sea space, and aircraft emergency landing fields (e.g., Naval Air Station Whidbey Island).

Testing locations are typically located near systems command support facilities, which provide critical safety, platform, and infrastructure support and technical expertise necessary to conduct testing (e.g., proximity to air squadrons). The testing community is required to install and test systems on platforms at the locations where those platforms are stationed. Naval Sea Systems Command testing sites and pierside locations offer a controlled static and sheltered environment that provides consistency for comparative data collection, which is critical for sonar maintenance and testing and for components of other critical testing activities. The Navy selects locations for acoustic and oceanographic research in NWTT Inland Waters based on areas that have ideal water depths for important research on shallow-water acoustic propagation. The Navy conducts activities at Naval Sea Systems Command testing sites in NWTT Inland Waters that cannot effectively or efficiently be conducted elsewhere in the Study Area or in other areas where the Navy trains and tests.

Training and testing schedules are based on national tasking, the number and duration of training cycles identified in the Optimized Fleet Response Plan and various training plans, forecasting of future testing requirements, and emerging requirements. When scheduling activities, the Navy also considers the need to minimize sea space and airspace conflicts throughout NWTT Inland Waters. The Navy schedules training and testing to minimize conflicts between its own activities and with consideration for public safety (e.g., safe distances from recreational boating activities). Daily fluctuations in training and testing schedules and objectives could mean that, on any given day, vessels or aircraft may depend on discrete locations of NWTT Inland Waters for discrete purposes. The Navy requires flexibility in the timing of its use of active sonar and explosives in order to meet individual training and testing schedules and deployment schedules. Navy vessels, aviation squadrons, and testing programs have a limited amount of time available for training and testing. The Navy must factor in variables such as maintenance and weather when scheduling event locations and timing. The schedules for testing events require flexibility because the testing community oftentimes has a need for rapid development to quickly resolve tactical deficiencies. Overall, training and testing schedules can be cyclical and are partially driven by geopolitical situations, which precludes the Navy from implementing additional seasonal restrictions on the use of active sonar or explosives in NWTT Inland Waters.

Expanding geographic mitigation requirements in NWTT Inland Waters beyond what is described in Table K-4 would encroach upon critical water space where mission-essential training and testing activities are required to occur within this portion of the Study Area. For example, additional limitations on the use of active sonar and explosives would either entirely preclude the Navy from conducting certain activities (e.g., explosive mine neutralization activities) or would require the Navy to shift activities to alternative locations, such as to the NWTT Offshore Area. This would have significant impacts on safety, sustainability, and the ability to meet mission requirements within limited available timeframes. Likewise, requiring weapons system program managers and research, testing, and development program managers to use alternative areas within limited available timeframes would deny them the necessary flexibility to rapidly field or develop systems to meet testing program requirements and emerging requirements. Prohibiting explosive mine neutralization activities using Navy divers in NWTT Inland Waters would be impractical because such mitigation would prevent ready access to the only two EOD ranges where this activity can occur in the Study Area. Similarly, further restrictions on active sonar activities would prevent ready access to critical training and testing environments that are not available elsewhere in the Study Area or in other areas where the Navy trains

and tests. Such restrictions would diminish the ability for Navy Sailors to train and become proficient in using sensors and weapon systems as required in areas analogous to where the military operates (which would result in a significant risk to personnel safety during military missions and combat operations), would have a significant impact on the ability of units to meet their individual training and certification requirements (which would impact the ability to deploy with the required level of readiness necessary to accomplish any tasking by Combatant Commanders), and prevent program managers and weapons system acquisition programs from meeting testing requirements and required acquisition milestones.

In summary, the Navy developed the mitigation areas identified in Table K-4 to avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine mammals, ESA-listed fish, and ESA-listed seabirds in areas the best available science suggest are particularly important for foraging, migration, or reproduction in NWTT Inland Waters. Further restrictions on the level, number, or timing (seasonal or time of day) of training or testing activities in NWTT Inland Waters would be impractical due to implications for safety, sustainability, and mission requirements. The iterative and cumulative impact of mitigation measures that the Navy considered but eliminated, as described above and in Section K.3.4 (Geographic Measures Considered but Eliminated) and Section 5.5 (Measures Considered but Eliminated), would deny national Command authorities the flexibility to respond to national security challenges and for the Navy to effectively accomplish the training and testing necessary for deployment and maintaining military readiness.

#### **K.3.4 Geographic Measures Considered but Eliminated**

As described in Section K.3 (Geographic Mitigation to be Implemented), based on its ongoing analysis of the best available science and potential mitigation, the Navy developed additional geographic mitigation measures to supplement mitigation developed for the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS and the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Although the Navy was able to develop numerous additional mitigation measures for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy eliminated some geographic measures recommended during scoping or public review of the 2019 NWTT Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the consultation and permitting processes because they did not meet the appropriate balance between being both effective as well as practical to implement, as discussed in the sections below. Additional information on other measures considered but eliminated for the Proposed Action is presented in Section 5.5 (Measures Considered but Eliminated).

##### **K.3.4.1 Developing Mitigation for Areas Outside the Study Area or the Scope of this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement**

The Navy develops mitigation measures specific to the Proposed Action for each of its environmental compliance documents. The Navy did not develop mitigation areas for activities outside the scope of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, such as activities analyzed under separate environmental compliance documents and associated MMPA and ESA consultations. The Navy also did not develop mitigation areas outside the Study Area (e.g., in areas along the California coastline) because those areas would not overlap the locations where training and testing activities will occur under the Proposed Action; and therefore, would not be effective mitigation.

##### **K.3.4.2 Developing Mitigation Outside the Navy's Legal Authority to Implement**

The Navy did not develop mitigation areas that would be outside the Navy's legal authority to implement. For example, the Navy does not have legal authority to develop Marine Protected Areas to restrict commercial or recreational fishing.



#### **K.3.4.3 Developing Mitigation Areas in Western Behm Canal**

The Navy considered but did not develop mitigation areas in Western Behm Canal because further mitigation is not warranted based on the low potential for impacts from the types of activities conducted in that portion of the Study Area. For example, the Navy does not use explosives in Western Behm Canal. The limited use of active sonar is short-term, infrequent, and localized within the Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility, which does not overlap key habitat areas of biological importance for marine species. Further analyses of potential impacts on marine species in this portion of the Study Area is presented in Section 3.3 (Marine Habitats), Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals), Section 3.7 (Marine Vegetation), Section 3.8 (Marine Invertebrates), Section 3.9 (Fishes), Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), and Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice).

#### **K.3.4.4 Restricting All or Additional Active Sonar and Explosive Activities**

The Navy developed a suite of geographic mitigation to avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, birds, and seafloor resources from active sonar or explosives under the Proposed Action. The operational community determined that adopting additional geographic measures for active sonar and explosives would result in the unacceptable limitation of the Navy's utilization of sea space and airspace required to effectively support training and testing of naval forces in the NWTT Study Area. Prohibiting all or implementing additional restrictions on the use of active sonar or explosives would prevent the Navy from accessing its ranges, operating areas, facilities, or range support structures necessary to meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action. For example, additional restrictions on the use of active sonar or explosives in NWTT Inland Waters would prevent the Navy from accessing areas vital to mission requirements, such as naval bases, operating areas, designated EOD Ranges, and testing facilities used for critical pierside sonar testing or maintenance and other training mission or testing program components. Similarly, additional restrictions on the use of active sonar in the NWTT Offshore Area (e.g., within 50 NM or other specified distances from shore), would prevent the Navy from accessing areas vital to mission requirements, such as the Quinault Range Site. Additional information is provided for the NWTT Offshore Area in Section K.3.2.2.2 (Operational Assessment) and for NWTT Inland Waters in Section K.3.3.2.2 (Operational Assessment).

#### **K.3.4.5 Developing a Geographic Mitigation Alternative**

As described in Section 2.4.1.4 (Alternatives Including Geographic Mitigation Measures Within the Study Area), the Navy considered but did not develop an action alternative for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS based solely on geographic mitigation that would impose geographic or temporal restrictions on specific areas in the Study Area, such as within the Olympic National Park or areas associated with the presence of specific species. As described in Section 5.1.1 (Benefits of Mitigation), the suite of mitigation measures included in this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS represents the maximum level of mitigation that is practical for the Navy to implement when balanced against impacts to safety, sustainability, and the ability to continue meeting mission requirements. The Navy designed its alternatives development and mitigation development processes to ensure that the maximum level of mitigation that is practical to implement would be implemented, regardless of the action alternative selected. Developing geographic mitigation for both action alternatives is a more conservative (i.e., more environmentally protective) approach than developing geographic mitigation for one action alternative but not the other. Additional information about the Navy's alternatives development process is presented in Section 2.4 (Action Alternatives Development).

#### K.3.4.6 Developing Mitigation for Aircraft Overflights

The Navy considered but did not develop mitigation for aircraft overflights, such as shifting transit routes, relocating aircrew training activities, or modifying flight altitudes, because such mitigation would not be practical to implement due to implications for safety and mission requirements. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controls the National Airspace System and routes that overlap the NWTT Study Area. The FAA designed the routes to efficiently manage air traffic in the region and to safely deconflict military traffic from commercial and general aviation aircraft, with consideration given to the presence of Canadian National Airspace and traffic to the north. The Navy assessed the viability of shifting the FAA-established transit route north (further over the waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca) to increase the distance between populated areas and landmarks and military aircraft transiting to the Olympic MOA from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. The potential benefit of such a shift would be a reduction of aircraft noise for communities and areas on the Olympic Peninsula located near the northern coast (e.g., Port Angeles, Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest). The Navy communicated its interest in shifting the transit route to the FAA; however, the FAA determined that moving the transit route further north would have implications for safety, conflict with established U.S. and Canadian commercial air routes into several major regional airports as well as potentially encroach on Canadian airspace, and would shift aircraft noise to other communities and areas. Therefore, implementing mitigation to shift the transit route would be impractical due to increased safety risks and unacceptable impacts on the airspace systems in the U.S. and Canada.

The Navy also assessed the practicality relocating training to alternate locations outside the Olympic MOA. The Olympic MOA provides existing Special Use Airspace over the Olympic Peninsula that the Navy uses to meet training requirements by EA-18G squadrons home-based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. The EA-18G is a type of aircraft used for Electronic Warfare. Navy Electronic Warfare aircraft have been conducting training in the FAA-designated airspace over the Olympic Peninsula for over 40 years. The Navy's military readiness requirements necessitate the ability to train EA-18G aircrew for their primary mission within training areas in the Northwest. With the introduction of the more advanced EA-18G aircraft in 2008, augmenting the legacy Electronic Warfare transmitters to improve military readiness training has become a priority.

The Navy plans to use the Olympic MOA instead of other airspaces in the western United States for the NWTT Proposed Action because the Olympic MOA provides the closest existing Special Use Airspace that meets the Navy's requirement to enhance its basic Electronic Warfare training in the Pacific Northwest. The Olympic MOA is uniquely configured to support ground-based Electronic Warfare instrumentation needs. The volume of Olympic MOA airspace combined with the off-shore Warning Area provides sufficient airspace size to accommodate the Navy's training scenarios. The existing Navy facility at Pacific Beach is well-positioned in proximity to the Olympic MOA to accommodate placement of the fixed signal transmitter system and a location to host the mobile signal transmitter maintenance building. The Olympic MOA is a short (15 minute) flight from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, enabling aircrew to maximize training time and minimize fuel burned transiting to and from their home base, while also reducing wear and tear on the airframes. The Olympic MOA is uniquely positioned because it offers access to off-shore sea-space to support integration with, and training requirements for, surface and subsurface naval units. National security requirements often necessitate naval operations that extend from sea to shore; therefore, the Olympic MOA offers a realistic training environment, in comparison to other land-locked training airspaces.

The Electronic Warfare signal equipment being used to support existing flight operations in the Olympic MOA is primarily intended to provide basic level training to aircrew in order to develop and maintain proficiency skills. This aircrew training does not involve the use of signal transmissions from the aircraft, commonly referred to as “jamming.” The aircraft only train to find, localize, and identify signals. Advanced Electronic Warfare aircrew training will continue to be conducted in other established locations, such as Mountain Home Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Fallon, and Nellis Air Force Base, which offer more advanced instrumentation capabilities. However, the need to maintain basic proficiency requires regular training, and the frequency of this training cannot be efficiently maintained by routinely sending aircraft to these more distant locations for the reasons described above.

Additionally, the Navy considered establishing an altitude floor for flights in the Olympic MOA and adopting measures developed for other environmental compliance documents, such as adopting all or some of the noise abatement procedures developed for Growler aircraft under the EA-18G Growler Aircraft Operations Environmental Assessment (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2018c). That environmental assessment analyzed proposed activities for EA-18G at the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island complex. Activities involved takeoffs and landings (i.e., aircraft flying relatively low when crossing above residential or other sensitive areas close to an airport). Because aircraft produce their loudest noise during takeoff (when close to full power), the Navy developed a suite of noise limitation measures for the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island complex to reduce disturbance to residential or other sensitive areas situated close to the airport. In contrast to those activities, the Proposed Action of this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS involves aircraft operating at altitudes of 12,000 to 18,000 ft. above mean sea level (MSL) when flying to and from the Olympic MOA. Within the Olympic MOA, approximately 95 percent of Navy training flight time occurs at or above 10,000 ft. MSL.

The remaining flights would operate at altitudes from 10,000 ft. MSL to a floor of 6,000 ft. MSL. The 6,000 ft. MSL floor within the Olympic MOA was established to adequately accommodate and provide maximum flexibility for the various types of military aviation training conducted under the Proposed Action. The volume of airspace down to 6,000 ft. MSL is critical in providing the necessary space, safety margin, and flexibility for aircraft to conduct maneuvering and other tactics requiring large altitude changes. The airspace is often divided horizontally or vertically to accommodate multiple aircraft activities. In the case of a vertical division, the volume of airspace below 10,000 ft. MSL will be utilized to provide sufficient volume to facilitate the training requirements of the lower assigned aircraft. Weather and cloud cover are also a significant factor in why the altitudes below 10,000 ft. MSL may be utilized and become necessary to conduct training missions within the Olympic MOA. Cloud coverage or weather may force aircraft to operate at lower altitudes to accomplish training requirements. Many training scenarios have specific weather and visibility separation requirements that must be adhered to meet training objectives or provide adequate safety of flight margins. This is especially important during winter months when weather on the Washington coast is fast-moving and unpredictable. As described in Appendix J (Airspace Noise Analysis for the Olympic Military Operations Area), Olympic National Park resources or visitors beneath the Olympic MOA might be able to detect infrequent noise from passing aircraft; however, the intensity of these intermittent noises would be relatively low, and disturbances from airborne acoustics on the Olympic MOA are expected to have a negligible impact on socioeconomic and biological resources.

#### **K.3.4.7 Using Marine Mammal Detection Networks for Mitigation in the NWT Offshore Area**

As described in Section K.3.3 (Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in NWT Inland Waters), the Navy developed new mitigation for this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS that involves Navy biologists initiating

communication with the appropriate marine mammal detection networks prior to naval units conducting explosive mine neutralization activities involving the use of Navy divers, Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training, Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercises, and Small Boat Attack Exercises within the Puget Sound and Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area. Opportunistic near real-time sighting information is currently available for Southern Resident killer whales from a non-governmental organization known as the Orca Network. The Orca Network's Whale Sighting Network is limited to waters within the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca (i.e., NWTT Inland Waters) and does not extend to waters offshore (i.e., the NWTT Offshore Area); therefore, at this time it is not possible for the Navy to use Orca Network sightings information for mitigation in the NWTT Offshore Area. As described in Section K.3.3.2.1 (Biological Effectiveness), the Navy is investigating the potential to coordinate with additional marine mammal detection networks for mitigation in NWTT Inland Waters, such as the British Columbia Cetacean Sightings Network's Whale Report Alert System and passive acoustic hydrophone networks, which are currently either not fully available in U.S. waters or are limited by current technological capabilities. As technologies advance, and if detection networks expand their coverage to waters, the Navy will continue to assess the practicality of engaging with marine mammal detection networks as a future mitigation tool in the NWTT Offshore Area. The Navy will provide information to NMFS about the status and findings of such assessments at the annual adaptive management meetings. Information about the Navy's adaptive management program is included in Section 5.1.2.2.1.1 (Adaptive Management).

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